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Daoudieh resigns to contest elections

AMMAN (Petra) — The director of press and public relations at the Royal Court, Mohammad Daoudieh, Sunday tendered his resignation to His Majesty King Hussein in order to run for parliamentary elections, in his home town of Tafilah. In his letter of resignation, Mr. Daoudieh expressed his gratefulness for the "compassion and care" that His Majesty had shown him, and said his time at the Royal Court was long enough to discover only some of many virtues that the King has. "It was a great honour to have worked for Your Majesty for 13 months... after which I now realise the secret of your people's love for you," Mr. Daoudieh wrote.

Guerrillas attack Israeli allies

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas attacked Israel's militia allies in South Lebanon with mortars on Sunday and Israeli forces responded with artillery fire, security sources said. The duels came a day after Arab forces agreed to attend an 11th round of Middle East peace talks with Israel starting on Tuesday in Washington. The sources said guerrillas fired Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia at Sojoud and Ghizlan on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in the south. No one was hurt. Israeli and SLA gunners retaliated by lobbing more than 20 artillery shells into hills on the Iqlim Al Toufah ridge where guerrillas are active. There was no report of casualties in the retaliatory fire. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, the first since Thursday when guerrillas attacked the SLA in the zone, also drawing Israeli shelling. Hizbollah and other groups opposed to the Arab-Israeli talks halted attacks on Israeli or SLA forces on Friday and Saturday, as Arab foreign ministers met in Beirut to plot strategy at the peace negotiations. The groups had vowed to continue firing Katyusha rockets into Israel if civilians are hurt by Israeli fire in the south.

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PLO and Israel on verge of historic deal

Both sides report accord on Gaza-Jericho with differing outlooks

Agreement is ready, but to be preceded by mutual recognition

Tunis crisis talks turned into lobby forum despite stiff opposition

Combined agency dispatches

IN A KEY STEP towards resolving decades of conflict, senior Israeli cabinet members and Palestinian officials said Sunday that Israel is on the verge of recognising the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and signing an agreement in principle to implement Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories, starting with the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. PLO official said in Tunis the organisation had given the Palestinian peace team the go-ahead to negotiate with Israel in spite of widespread opposition within the organisation's ranks. The team's spokeswoman, Hanan Ashrawi, said the PLO had given the "green light" for them to negotiate the "Gaza-Jericho first" option at the Middle East peace talks with Israel, due to reconvene in Washington Tuesday.

Officials said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had scrapped the assent of the PLO's decision-making Executive Committee after a stormy three-day meeting here, as hardline members accused the veteran leader of selling out to Israel.

Dr. Ashrawi told reporters the "Gaza-Jericho first" option would be a first step towards Palestinian self-rule.

"It's not a green light to sign an accord but to negotiate it within the framework of a declaration of principles on an overall accord," she stressed.

Dr. Ashrawi and Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation in bilateral talks with Israel, left Tunis for Washington Sunday. Palestinian sources said

Faisal Husseini, the overall team leader, would join them later. Israeli Minister also said the Jewish state was on the verge of the agreement with the PLO which could break a deadlock in peace talks and lead two of the Middle East's bitterest foes to recognise each other.

Some Palestinian officials echoed the Israeli assessment but others said the PLO might pull out of the stalled talks unless Israel agreed to a troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin called a special cabinet meeting for Monday to vote on part of the agreement, which was reached after secret contacts between Israeli and PLO officials living outside the occupied territories. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres flew to California Friday to discuss the plan with Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Mr. Peres Sunday briefed the cabinet on his talks with Mr. Christopher.

The plan calls for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho during five years of interim self-rule arrangements in the rest of the West Bank.

"We want to turn over a new leaf in relations," PLO official Yasser Abed-Rabbo told Israel army radio. "We believe that the coming days will witness a positive and an historic development which has been awaited, expected by both people for a long time," he said.

Several ministers said after Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting that the proposal for limited self-rule in Gaza and Jericho first would be approved Monday.

Environment Minister Yossi

Sarid, who took part in the secret contacts with the PLO, told reporters: "We are talking about an agreement that is ready to be signed."

Sari Nusseibeh, an adviser to the Palestinian peace talks team, told Reuters: "We have tentatively reached an agreement on general principles. The details still need to be worked out."

He said it was not clear whether Israel would pull all its troops out of Gaza and place Jewish settlements there under Palestinian authority.

Israeli Health Minister Haim Ramon said soldiers would be pulled out but added: "No Jewish settlement in the territories will be moved... Jews in the territories will be under Israeli rule."

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, said the withdrawal issue could undermine the peace talks.

"We are seriously studying suspending the talks because Israel does not intend to withdraw from one inch of the occupied territories," Mr. Kaddoumi said in Amman.

Mr. Rabin was circumspect in a Sunday newspaper interview: "There was progress in the talks with the Palestinians. We'll see if what the Palestinians told us in private discussions will be given expression on the negotiations in Washington."

One U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity, seemed to share Mr. Rabin's scepticism.

"A casual observer would say, 'It looks like they're down to police security issues and financial issues,'" the official said. Referring to the procedural details of the Gaza-Jericho deal. "As you know, it's going to be a

lot more complicated when they get into the reality of it."

The mere fact that Mr. Peres made the journey to California just four days before negotiations were to resume is an encouraging sign, said Rob Sattloff of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"Peres wouldn't fly out there if there wasn't substance to discuss," Mr. Sattloff said. "It sounds like it's focused on the Gaza-Jericho first plan... the level of optimism coming out of both Israelis and Palestinians is really quite remarkable."

The reports brought immediate howls of protest from Israel's right wing and from the Islamic activists opposed to Mr. Arafat. Both raised the specter of violence.

The Israeli cabinet is expected to vote Monday night on allowing the Israeli team at the peace talks to go ahead with the plan. Mr. Peres is expected to fly to Washington this week to sign it.

Mr. Rabin might also seek a cabinet vote on whether to recognise the PLO since the autonomy agreement could not really proceed without them.

The change comes after months of quiet exploratory meetings between PLO and Israeli officials that culminated last week in the outline of an autonomy plan reached by Mr. Peres and Mahmoud Abbas, a senior PLO official, in a meeting in Norway.

Cabinet ministers would not directly confirm that Israel would recognise the PLO, telling reporters to ask them the same question again after Monday night's meeting. But they left little doubt that talking to the PLO was

needed for a breakthrough. "If the people of the PLO will contribute to peace, we will talk with them," said Health Minister Chaim Ramon after Sunday's cabinet meeting that focused on the details of the autonomy plan. Mr. Rabin's office declined comment on recognition.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the second most important component of the PLO after Mr. Arafat's Fatah, called the Gaza-Jericho option a "trick."

PFLP Deputy Secretary General Abu Ali Mustafa claimed it would not guarantee Palestinians' rights and would allow Israeli forces to retain security control.

"The Palestinian people are very distressed, and consider (the option) to mean sharing power with the Israeli occupation forces," he said.

Taysir Khaleel, a committee member and top official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), also one of the PLO's three main factions, denied the committee had given the go-ahead, claiming an "overwhelming majority" of its 18 members had expressed their opposition to the option.

Palestinian negotiators attended the third and final session of the talks on Saturday, then went straight into consultations with Mr. Arafat which lasted until dawn Sunday, officials said.

Dr. Abdul Shafi told journalists that he was "not optimistic" that an acceptable agreement would be thrashed out with Israel. He did not elaborate, but said he did not rule out a suspension of bilateral talks with Israel if

Jordan respects 'independent Palestinian will,' King to Arafat

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a telephone call from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and discussed with him the latest developments in the peace process, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The agency said that during the telephone conversation, the King assured Mr. Arafat of Jordan's support for "the independent Palestinian will" in making decisions.

The call came after Jordanian officials had expressed dissatisfaction with the Palestinians for the lack of consultation over the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) acceptance of the Gaza-Jericho option.

But in commenting on Sunday's contact between the two leaders, Minister of Information Ma'n Abu Nowar told the Jordan Times the King's assurance to Mr. Arafat that Jordan would support independent decisions by the Palestinians reaffirms Jordan's stand in support of the struggle for their national rights.

Agence France Press had earlier quoted an unidentified Jordanian official as saying that Jordan has security con-



cerns about the Gaza-Jericho option and is unhappy with the Palestinians for not consulting Jordan over the Gaza-Jericho option (see story below).

Dr. Abu Nowar said, however, that there is no change in the Jordanian position towards the Palestinians and the peace process.

"We will continue to support the Palestinians. We will not negotiate on their behalf and we will not interfere in their internal affairs," Dr. Abu Nowar stressed.

Jordanian officials privately say that Jordan would "have liked to have been consulted over the Palestinian stand on

the Gaza-Jericho option so that we would not be surprised by any developments related to it." But no matter what the Palestinians' stand towards consultation with Jordan is, "we will continue to support them and consult with them," Dr. Abu Nowar said.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan said that Jordan had no accurate data on the Gaza and Jericho option and could not therefore comment on it.

"Jordan can comment or take stand on the option only when it is informed of all its details," Petra quoted Mr. Hassan as saying.

Delegation leaves for Washington

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian delegation to the Arab League peace talks Sunday left for Washington to take part in the 11th round of bilateral talks which begin Tuesday. The delegation to the talks will be headed by Jordan's Ambassador in Washington Fayez Tarawneh and will include Marwan Doudin, Munther Haddadin, Mohammad Bani Hani, Ibrahim Badran, Abdullah Touqan, Hani Al Mulki, Awn Khasawneh, Major General Tahseen Shurudum, Abed Al Ilah Al Kurdi, Musa Breizat and spokesman Marwan Al Muasher.

Iraq holds war games near Iranian border

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The army has held live-fire exercises in eastern Iraq near the Iranian border, its largest since the Gulf war, the official daily Al Qadisiya reported Sunday. The paper said the five-day land exercises dubbed Golden Falcon-2 ended Saturday. "The armed forces remain with their swords brandished for the defence of Iraq," Defence Minister Ali Hassan Al Majid was quoted as saying in a message to President Saddam Hussein. Baghdad has held several military exercises to reorganise the armed forces since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991.

Iran says U.S. promoting enmity

NICOSIA (R) — The head of the Iranian navy accused the United States on Sunday of creating enmity between Iran and Gulf Arab states to justify the deployment of U.S. troops in the oil-region. "America tries to reach its ill-fated ends through striving to create enmity between the Islamic Republic of Iran, the only country opposed to the U.S. presence in the region, and the Gulf Cooperation Council member states," Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani told the official Iranian news agency IRNA. He was referring to the redeployment of U.S. forces in the region following the closure of U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

King welcomes Sheikh Zayed's call for healing Arab differences

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday welcomed a call by United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan to end inter-Arab differences and restore Arab solidarity on a new basis.

King Hussein, in comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that "such a responsible attitude was expected from Sheikh Zayed, one of the Arab leaders who have consistently exerted efforts towards Arab solidarity and unity."

The King's remarks made by Sheikh Zayed, who was shown on Jordan Television, saying that the disarray in Arab ranks in the wake of the Gulf crisis was not acceptable.

Sheikh Zayed called for Arab unity and said that every Arab should support and help other Arabs.

"We are all in Arab League... but every one of us operates on his own without (the approval) of his brethren and thus, is un-

acceptable," Sheikh Zayed said.

"One should not make enemies or friends on his own without taking the opinion of his brethren and their approval," he said.

"We are brothers and we should believe in such a relationship," he said.

At least on two occasions in the last two years, Sheikh Zayed has publicly called for healing the Arab wounds caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and launched an initiative to settle inter-Arab differences.

According to Arab diplomatic sources, the UAE was among the first Arab countries to extend support for an Arab League-initiated push to reconcile Arab countries split over the Gulf crisis early this year.

The initiative failed to get off the ground after Kuwait vetoed it, but reports from Cairo say that Dr. Esmat Abdul Meguid, the league secretary-general, has not given up the idea, which was reported to have the outright support of a majority of the 21

members of the league.

In his comments carried by Petra, the King also referred to the issue of Jerusalem.

The Holy City "has always been our major preoccupation and it had been so with my father and grandfathers," he said. "Jerusalem is the first of the two kiblas... and the land of Israa wal Mir'aj (the nocturnal journey of the Prophet Mohammad)."

"We realise the dangers surrounding us and the attempts aimed at obliterating our Islamic and Arab identity," he said. "This makes it incumbent upon us to shoulder responsibility towards Jerusalem in realisation of our Islamic faith and the principles of the Great Arab Revolt."

It also embodies our national and humanitarian duty." On Saturday, King Hussein instructed the government to allocate money to rebuild an ancient wood podium inside Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque, set on fire in 1969. Saladdin's podium, built in the Syrian town of Aleppo, was



Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan

brought to Jerusalem by Muslim armies after the Muslim warrior and an Ayyubid Sultan of Egypt retook the Holy City from the Crusaders in the 11th century.

"I instruct you now to instruct the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and the commission in charge of restoring the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock... to rebuild Saladdin's podium in its true form," King Hussein said in a letter to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Various Islamic organisations said it would take several years of work and JD 3 million to build a podium similar to the burnt one.

Islamic Action Front to take part in elections in 'full force'

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) will contest the next parliamentary elections with "full force" even though its leaders are convinced that their performance in the polls might not be truly reflective of grassroots support for the Islamists in the country.

"We will exert the greatest possible effort to carry the largest number of (our) candidates to Parliament," IAF president Ishaq Al Farhan told a press conference Sunday.

But the results of the elections would not reflect the "size" of the Islamists' support in the country because of the "restrictions" on the means of expressing this support, said IAF deputy president and former Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdullah Akaleh.

The first of these limitations are imposed by the (new) election law, Dr. Akaleh said. "The real size (of the Islamists) can only be seen in a 'real democracy'." Dr. Farhan said that although

the IAF believes the electoral changes, introduced unilaterally by the government earlier this month, were tailored to weaken its performance in the elections for the 12th Parliament, it has decided to participate in the polls to protect "the stability and higher interests of the country."

"His Majesty King Hussein's commitment to the holding of fair and free elections was among the motives to participate in the elections," Dr. Farhan, a member of the Upper House of Parliament, said.

But while Dr. Farhan said the IAF was still studying the possibility of contesting the legality of the electoral changes in court, in concert with other political parties, Dr. Akaleh ruled out that option as "a waste of time."

"Since the new election law was announced by the King, we see no feasibility for this option. We will not waste time in a useless effort," said Dr. Akaleh, who had served as minister of education in Mudar Badran's coalition government with the

Muslim Brotherhood movement, which is the backbone of the IAF.

The IAF had been the fiercest opponent of electoral changes before they were issued on Aug. 17 but its opposition fizzled out almost immediately after the new temporary election law was announced.

Observers believe the new law will stop the Islamists from repeating the electoral gains they made in 1989 under the bloc voting system by denying them the opportunity to form alliances with other candidates.

In 1989, the Muslim Brotherhood, whose candidates would contest the coming elections on the IAF ticket, won 23 seats in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament. Observers say the number was disproportionate to the Islamists' actual grassroots support.

The IAF says it opposed the electoral changes due to the "undemocratic" mechanism through which they were introduced. It

Jordan fears Palestinian influx in case of Jericho option

By Randa Habib
Agence France Presse

AMMAN — Jordan fears that an Israeli pull-out from the West Bank town of Jericho as a first step towards Palestinian self-rule could lead to an influx of Palestinians.

A high-ranking official, voicing security concerns for his country, said Amman saw a double risk of a Palestinian exodus in the "Gaza-Jericho first" option proposed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Israel could engineer a transfer of population by expelling Jericho all Palestinians that it considers as "undesirable," the official told AFP, declining to be named.

Faced with harsh living con-

ditions in Jericho, a town of 15,000 inhabitants, the expelled were likely to cross the nearby bridge over the River Jordan, he said.

Israel could then bar these Palestinians from returning to the West Bank as it controls the bridge, he explained.

The official said another factor was that many Palestinians would be tempted to move to Jordan voluntarily in search of better living conditions and work opportunities.

Around 57,000 Palestinians have been stranded in Jordan since 1968 because Israel will not allow them back to the territories it seized in the 1967 Middle East war, he said.

"Unless we close the transit gates between the West Bank and Jordan, we don't know how it would be possible to contain an exodus," he said.

King Hussein informed PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat of Jordan's concerns in talks last Tuesday. He also criticised the PLO for proposing the Jericho option without consulting him first.

Mr. Arafat failed to reassure the King, the Jordanian official said. "Jordan should have been consulted not just informed," he stressed.

"Jordan is favourable to an Israeli pull-out from any part of occupied Arab land. But if it is done without previous coordination and preparation, it could lead to a transfer of Palestinian population," he

warned. King Hussein has shortened an upcoming Asian tour, dropping North Korea and Japan, because of developments in the Middle East peace process, a reliable source said Saturday.

The source said the tour of Thailand, China, Singapore and possibly Indonesia would take place in September rather than late August as expected.

Arab-Israeli peace talks resume Tuesday in Washington, as Israeli and Palestinian sources predict a breakthrough on the Gaza Strip and Jericho as a first step toward Palestinian self-government.

According to the United Nations relief and works agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), more than one million Palestinians live in Jordan, or

more than a quarter of the country's population. Most Palestinians in the West Bank have Jordanian passports but they lost the nationality in 1988 when Jordan cut off the legal and administrative links it held with the territory since 1950.

Jordanian officials said the PLO's failure to inform or consult Amman on its proposals for Palestinian control of Jericho and the Gaza Strip created a crisis of confidence.

"We don't know what is really happening and this worries us," one official said.

He criticised the PLO for negotiating the option with Israel in secret rather than in coordination with the Arab states in the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks.

On the Occasion of
The Prophet's Birthday



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Foreigners travel to east Turkey despite kidnaps

ISTANBUL (R) — Kidnappings of tourists by rebel Kurds in eastern Turkey have deterred most tour companies, but some adventurous travellers still put themselves in harm's way.

"We have had no tour groups this month," said an employee at the Big Urartu Hotel in the eastern city of Van. "We are empty right now, but we do get back-packers from time to time."

The separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) has seized 16 foreigners in the past two months and seven remain in its hands — two Swiss, two Italians, two Germans and a New Zealander.

The guerrillas want the governments concerned to negotiate directly for their release, but the Western countries, accepting Turkey's view of the PKK as a terrorist group, have refused.

Released hostages have told of long forced marches across mountainous terrain with ragged bands of young guerrillas who extorted food from impoverished Kurdish villagers on the way.

The brutal conflict with the PKK, which has cost more than 7,000 lives since 1984, is never mentioned in travel brochures.

The Turkish authorities are reluctant to advertise the risks in the east — in case they inadvertently dampen the lucrative mass tourist trade in Istanbul and sunny western resorts.

Tourism Minister Abdul Kadir Ates said tour groups could still visit eastern Turkey safely if they gave advance notice to the local authorities who could then arrange security.

"But it is really difficult to tell this to the adventurers who prefer to go there on their own," he told Reuters.

Mr. Ates said 9,000 tourists had visited Van province this year — a tiny fraction of the total of seven million the government hopes will visit Turkey as a whole in 1993.

The region has plenty to lure tourists, especially those excited by wild scenery and historic monuments, as well as Biblical enthusiasts determined to find traces of Noah's Ark.

Even the experience of being kidnapped is not enough to put off the fundamentalists. One of the Italian tourists, Angelo Pellegrini, has been abducted by the PKK before one of his many previous trips to the east.

He never says anything to us," complained an Italian diplomat in Ankara. "He never con-

tacts the consulates in Istanbul or Izmir, but of course he is free to travel."

Travelling overland to the main attractions — the deserted Armenian city of Ani near Kars, Lake Van and the Nemrut Volcano, the colossal statues on Mount Nemrut, Mount Agri (Ararat), the Ishak Pasha Palace or the rock city of Hasankeyf — requires driving on roads which may just be safe in daytime.

At night PKK guerrillas emerge to stop traffic at impromptu roadblocks and kidnap state-paid village guards or foreigners.

Most, if not all, the 16 foreign kidnaps victims were abducted in this way. Apart from four Frenchmen seized from an organised tour bus in July, all were independent travellers.

The appetite for organised tours to the east has all but vanished for the moment. Hussein Meyman of Tentour, a leading tour company, said demand dried up after the French kidnapping.

A more specialised company, Trek Travel, has stopped taking trekkers to mount Agri and has even stopped taking groups to the Kackar mountains north of the PKK's normal area of activity.

Nevertheless, Att Tours, which caters mainly for Americans, was sending a group of 14 to the east on Sunday and was planning 10 more trips in the next two months, operator Husnu Mirza said.

Most Western governments strongly advise their nationals to stay away from eastern and southeastern Turkey.

"Do not go there unless on essential business," the British Foreign Office warned last week.

As for the rest of Turkey, it said: "We do not advise against travel to these areas," but noted PKK threats to attack tourist targets in western Turkey, where several bombings have taken place in the last three months.

In London, Mustafa Turkmen, director of the Turkish tourist board for Britain and Ireland, said that despite such warnings, the number of British tourists visiting Turkey in the first eight months of the year was 37 per cent up on 1992.

"Bookings are exceptionally good this year with half a million people travelling to Turkey," said a spokesperson at travel agent Thomas Cook. "It's been very popular with the British because of low holiday brochure prices."



Supporters of fugitive Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aided Sunday stage an anti-U.S. protest in Mogadishu (AFP photo)

Somalis stage anti-U.S. protest

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Some 1,000 supporters of Somalia's main warlord Mohammed Farah Aided demonstrated here Sunday against the U.S. Army presence among U.N. peacekeeping forces.

The protesters gathered at the October 21 Stadium here armed with stones and chanted "Yank-ees go home, long live Aided."

Gunfire was heard near the stadium. But it was not immediately clear who was shooting. A spokesman for the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) said U.N. forces were not involved.

"We will cut the 400 American soldiers piece by piece like beef," said Abdulhadi Hassan, one of the demonstrators.

He was referring to 400 elite U.S. Rangers who arrived here last week amid reports that their mission was to capture the fugitive General Aided, wanted by the United Nations for allegedly ordering bloody attacks on the peacekeepers.

In another development, the deputy commander of the Indian brigade in the 29-nation U.N. force, Colonel Dinesh Merchant, said his country's contingent will soon be the largest.

India has agreed to send some 4,900 troops to Somalia to reinforce the 24,500-strong force.

The United States has some 4,200 soldiers here.

An advance party of 200 Indian soldiers arrived in Mogadishu on Saturday to set up logistics before the coming of the remaining troops.

The next group of the mainly infantry men will arrive Sept. 14 and the entire force is expected in Mogadishu before Sept. 25, Col. Merchant said.

Col. Merchant told journalists here that the brigade was selected from those soldiers who had served "continuously well" in the army.

He described them as "battle hardened," many of them having fought against the Tamil Tigers when India sent in troops to Sri Lanka in a peacekeeping attempt five years ago.

Most of the Indian soldiers will be deployed in the western town of Belet Huen where part of their brief will be to provide security to German troops doing rehabilitation work there.

Germany's post-war constitution allows German soldiers to use arms only in self-defence.

UNOSOM II Saturday opened Mogadishu airport after closing it to civilian flights for a week citing security reasons, a U.N. military spokesman said.

to all civilian and commercial planes on Aug. 21 saying it was assessing information that gunmen loyal to Gen. Aided possessed anti-aircraft weapons and were ready to use them against U.N. planes.

But U.N. deputy military spokesman Captain Tim McDavitt said after a week's assessment, UNOSOM could not confirm that the militiamen had such weapons.

"However, a potential threat to aircraft still exists," Capt. McDavitt said.

Meanwhile, the Somali National Alliance (SNA) led by Gen. Aided in a statement here appealed for a "third party" to help mediate between it and UNOSOM.

The SNA said the mediator could be "eminent persons, organisations, governments or group of governments."

"It is impossible to conduct dialogue with UNOSOM II while the U.S. and UNOSOM II are jointly engaged in an increasing build-up and offensive against us day after day," the statement said.

The movement said the United Nations and the United States had prepared a "special commando force" to launch a genocidal attack on the Somalia population.

Lawyer claims new evidence against Demjanjuk

TEL AVIV (AP) — A lawyer said Sunday he has obtained new evidence placing retired Ohio auto worker John Demjanjuk in Nazi death and concentration camps.

Attorney Shafir Shilansky said he hoped the material would persuade Israel's attorney general, Yosef Harish, to reverse his position and recommend that Mr. Demjanjuk be tried on new Nazi war crime charges.

Mr. Shilansky told the Associated Press he was given new documents and information about witnesses who allegedly place Mr. Demjanjuk as a Nazi guard in the death camp of Sobibor and another location, but refused to elaborate.

Mr. Shilansky said he would meet with Mr. Harish by Monday to present the documents.

In Cleveland, Mr. Demjanjuk's son-in-law, Ed Nishnic, was sceptical and "very unimpressed" with the claim.

"These alleged Nazi hunters and lawyers have been for the last two weeks claiming to have new evidence and so far, every piece of their new evidence has fallen apart when faced with any sort of review whatsoever," he said in a telephone interview.

Mr. Harish recommended earlier this month against a new trial, saying it could raise the danger of double jeopardy. He had also argued that a new trial was not in the public interest because there was no guarantee of conviction.

Israel's supreme court last month overturned Mr. Demjanjuk's 1988 conviction and death sentence as "Ivan the terrible," a guard at the Nazi camp of Treblinka.

The court found there was convincing evidence that Mr. Demjanjuk, 73, belonged to a Nazi guard unit and that he was in the Sobibor camp and several concentration camps.

The judges recommended against a new trial, saying too much time had already lapsed in legal proceedings against Mr. Demjanjuk.

But appeals by Holocaust survivors, Nazi hunters and various Jewish groups held up Mr. Demjanjuk's scheduled Aug. 1 deportation at the last minute.

A different supreme court panel rejected their request for a new trial on the Sobibor charges, but the supreme court president gave the petitioners until Thursday to make a final plea for a new Mr. Demjanjuk trial.

Last week, Mr. Shilansky and his law partner said a Sobibor survivor had been located who remembered seeing Mr. Demjanjuk at the camp. But Nazi hunters who questioned the woman, Esther Raab, 71, later said they did not believe her testimony would stand up in court.

None of the Sobibor survivors represented by Mr. Shilansky remember Mr. Demjanjuk at the camp. There are several documents that purportedly link Mr. Demjanjuk to Sobibor and other camps. One is an SS identity card in Demjanjuk's name issued at the Trawniki training camp for Nazi guards. It says Mr. Demjanjuk was dispatched to Sobibor in March 1943.

Mr. Demjanjuk has maintained his innocence, saying he spent most of World War II in German camps after being captured as a Soviet soldier in May 1942.

Since his acquittal, Mr. Demjanjuk has been held in protective custody in his isolation cell at Ayalon prison in central Israel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King Hassan II to inaugurate most modern mosque

CASABLANCA (AFP) — King Hassan II is to inaugurate the world's second largest but most modern mosque Monday, seven years after construction began. Michel Pinseau, the mosque's French architect, told journalists that "following the king's instructions we built a mosque which uses all modern techniques." Built largely on land reclaimed from the sea and designed to withstand the most severe earthquakes, the five billion drachm (\$527 million) mosque with its huge mobile roof, "is bigger than all known cathedrals, including St. Peter's in Rome," Mr. Pinseau said. The Hassan II Mosque, which has a 200-metre high minaret with a 35-kilometre long laser beam aimed at Mecca, will be able to contain 20,000 faithful, including 6,500 women on two mezzanines, while a further 80,000 could pray on the esplanade outside. The central part of the prayer hall can be transformed in five minutes into an open-air patio when the 3,700 square metres of roof slide away. When the area is closed, the hall is softly lit by 50 crystal chandeliers each weighing 1,200 kilograms. Mr. Pinseau said one of the main technical difficulties in building the mosque was to raise the minaret by 25 metres at the king's request.

Egyptian killed in Kuwait mineclearing

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — An Egyptian mineclearer was killed and two others injured in a blast in northern Kuwait near the Iraqi border, Al Anbaa newspaper said Sunday. Major Osama Higab, 50, died in the explosion Saturday that injured two other soldiers from an Egyptian contingent clearing mines in Kuwait, it said. They Bangladeshi mineclearers were killed and 10 injured in a similar blast on Aug. 24 in northwest Kuwait. They were among 1,500 Bangladeshi clearing mines left over from the August 1990-February 1991 Iraqi occupation. At least 53 explosives experts from around the world have died while clearing mines in the emirate.

S. Arabia gave \$50m to PLO since 1990

RIYADH (AP) — Donations totalling some \$50 million have been transferred from Saudi Arabia to the Palestine Liberation Organisation since the Gulf crisis, the official Saudi Press Agency said Saturday. The agency said the figure was disclosed by Abdul Rahim Gamos, a PLO member who heads the Popular committee which collects private donations to the PLO made mainly by Palestinians working in the kingdom. The PLO has since been ostracised by the Saudi-led group of Gulf Arab countries since its leadership sided with Iraq following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states had been the PLO's major bankrollers. The suspension of the cash flow from these governments has forced PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to slash the PLO's annual budget of \$300 million by 70 per cent. Private donations and a PLO-decreed five per cent tax on salaries of Palestinians working in Gulf countries have continued. Also, Riyadh has continued to pay \$6 million a month to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Peres under fire for breaking Sabbath

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The ultra-orthodox Shas Party, a member of Israel's government coalition, slammed Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Sunday for rushing off for peace talks in the United States during the Sabbath. "It's scandalous for a minister to travel on the Sabbath," said Yossef Azran, who threatened to file a no-confidence motion against the government in parliament. Mr. Peres returned Sunday to the fire and brimstone broadside from Orthodox Jews after meeting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in California, over moves to grant the Palestinians autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, Jewish religious law bans any work on the holy day from Friday evening to Saturday evening and is strictly observed by the orthodox.

Egypt to tighten clampdown on militants

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali has vowed to intensify his campaign against radicals despite an assassination attempt on him Aug. 18. General Ali told London-based Middle East Broadcasting Corporation television, monitored here, that he felt better after successful surgery on his injured arm in Switzerland and was planning to return to Cairo in the next few days. "I have not and will never regret being an interior minister," said the former governor of the southern province of Asyut, the hotbed of radicals seeking to overthrow the regime and set up an "Islamic state." "The incident has not affected me. On the contrary, I will continue my work and will even intensify it," he said. Five people were killed and 13 injured in the suicide attack on Gen. Ali in central Cairo, claimed by Muslim fundamentalists from the Vanguard of the Conquest organisation. "To those who tried to kill me, I say 'God will take revenge against you.' But I ask you to return to your religion... because what is happening has nothing to do with religion, patriotism and conscience," Gen. Ali said. "To the policemen, I say 'carry on and do not be frightened.' To the Egyptian people I say remain vigilant against those who violate security."

Newspaper director, editor to stand trial

TEHRAN (AFP) — The managing director of Salam newspaper's to stand trial after a religious court in Iran following complaints from several high-ranking officials, the daily reported Sunday. Mohammad Mousavi Khojini, a former revolutionary prosecutor, will appear in court next Saturday, it said, without giving details of the charges. The report came one day after the radical newspaper orders from the Islamic revolutionary courts. In Sunday's edition of Salam, Mr. Mousavi called Mr. Abdi's arrest "illegal" because the revolutionary courts had "no mandate to review cases relating to press violations." Salam has stepped up its criticism of the government in recent months and pressed for media freedom. A weekly said meanwhile that the chief editor of Iran's leading newspaper, Kayhan, would also have to stand trial following a civil suit filed by chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi. Mahdi Nassiri, who wrote two commentaries criticising Mr. Yazdi last month, was summoned to the prosecutor's office on Saturday and released on bail, Kayhan Havaie said.

Under PLO austerity, even tea glasses are empty

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

AL RAM, Occupied West Bank — The headmaster of the Nation elementary school called for tea to make a group of visitors welcome. "There is no tea," his assistant announced.

It was an almost unthinkable breach of Arab hospitality. But in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the squeeze is rapidly becoming the hallmark of scores of education, health and welfare organisations dependent on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The direct cause is readily apparent. Gulf states have poured billions annually into PLO coffers cut the flow when PLO leader Yasser Arafat became an outspoken Iraq supporter after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Arafat's supporters tend to blame the deepening financial crisis on a grand American conspiracy to keep the Gulf taps shut until the Palestinians accept unfavourable peace terms with Israel.

The Europeans have prom-

ised more than \$600 million in aid and the United States also pledges hefty support once a peace treaty is signed.

"We are being blackmailed," said Freih Abu Meidein, a Gaza attorney and Palestinian negotiator. "Mid-east peace talks are set to resume next week in Washington."

Mr. Arafat's critics blame him, kicking off corruption, cronyism and a bureaucracy bloated by pandering to all factions.

"The power is centralised and authoritarian. If it was the people who influenced PLO policy there would not be so many mistakes," said Tahir Nimari, author of a critical PLO analysis.

Wall slogans — the mood barometers of the Palestinian uprising — have been drying up for want of money for paint. But a few attack Mr. Arafat.

"The people have no right to choose, that is only for the chosen," said one.

Palestinians acknowledge the problems have existed for years. But the combination of tight finances and a peace

deadline is making them surface now.

Outside the occupied territories, two respected independent members of the PLO's Executive Committee angered by Mr. Arafat's concession-making to Israel, had resigned. The military commander in Lebanon said Mr. Arafat should step aside for turning his fighters into beggars.

The economic belt-tightening has exacerbated disagreement over key issues of the Palestinian cause. The conflict came to a head in the wake of Mr. Arafat's recent nod of approval — opposed by many in the PLO — to postpone negotiations about Jerusalem. He is also criticised for accepting an Israeli plan for limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in the occupied West Bank.

"The economic crunch did bring to the surface many things. Many people were quiet about all these issues and somehow all these voices are emerging now that the going is tough and serious decisions are required," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the

Palestinian delegation.

Palestinians estimate that PLO funding for the territories has dropped from over \$350 million in 1988, when it sought to buy control of the uprising against the Israeli occupation, to under \$40 million this year.

Hardest hit are pensioners and low-level employees.

At Al Watan school, the teachers have not gotten their \$360 per month salaries since April. They have threatened to strike, but that usually just drives students elsewhere.

"We all support Arafat, but that does not mean we should be left alone to starve," said headmaster Abdul Rahim Babar.

Widely respected Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem faces an operating deficit of nearly \$31 million. Remaining donors among Gulf princes may cut that in half. But they closed two outlying clinics and shelved plans for a nursing college as well as a cancer unit.

In Gaza, the lawyers' association lost their telephone for not paying the bill. Mr. Abu Meidein said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

| JORDAN TELEVISION | |
|---|--|
| Tel: 773111-19 | |
| PROGRAMME TWO | |
| 18:00 | Doc. "Le Louvre du Dinjon a la Pyramide" |
| 19:00 | News in French |
| 19:15 | Sport Magazine |
| 19:30 | News in Hebrew |
| 20:00 | News in Arabic |
| 20:30 | The Golden Girls |
| 21:10 | Thirty Something |
| 22:00 | News in English |
| 22:20 | Sherlock Holmes |
| PRAYER TIMES | |
| 04:44 | Fajr |
| 06:04 | Sunrise |
| 12:37 | Dhuhr |
| 16:13 | Asr |
| 19:09 | Maghrib |
| 20:20 | Isha |
| CHURCHES | |
| St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetleah, Tel. 810740 | |
| Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637585 | |
| St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590 | |
| Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440 | |
| De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 | |
| Terrence Church Tel. 622666 | |
| Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541 | |
| Assiout Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543 | |
| Assiout Catholic Church Tel. 771331 | |
| Assiout Orthodox Church Tel. 77261 | |
| St. Epiphane Church Tel. 771751 | |
| Assiout International Church Tel. 625256 | |
| Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328 | |
| The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932 | |
| Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691 | |
| WEATHER | |
| Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology | |
| Hot weather conditions will prevail and winds will be northeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba very hot weather conditions will prevail, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. | |
| Min./Max. temp. | 24 / 38 |
| Aqaba | 28 / 44 |
| Deserts | 20 / 40 |
| Jordan Valley | 27 / 43 |

| EMERGENCIES | |
|--|---------------------|
| Food Control Centre | 637111 |
| Civil Defence Department | 661111 |
| Civil Defence Immediate | 661111 |
| Rescue | 630341 |
| Civil Defence Emergency | 199 |
| Fire Brigade | 192, 621111, 637777 |
| Blood Bank | 891228 |
| Highway Police | 773121 |
| Traffic Police | 843402 |
| Public Security Department | 630321 |
| Hotel Complaints | 605800 |
| Price Complaints | 661176 |
| Electric Power | |
| Complaints | 897467 |
| Assiout Municipality | |
| Complaints | 787111 |
| Telephone Information (directory assistance) | 121 |
| Overseas Calls | 010230 |
| Central Assiout Telephone | |
| Repairs | 623101 |
| Abdali Telephone Repairs | 661101 |
| Jordan Television | 773111 |
| Radio Jordan | 774111 |
| Water Authority | 680100 |
| Jordan Electricity Authority | 815615 |
| Company | 636381 |
| RJ Flight Information | 08-53200 |
| Queen Alia Int. Airport | 08-53200 |
| HOSPITALS | |
| AMMAN: | |
| Hussein Medical Centre | 81881323 |
| Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. | 64428106 |
| Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. | 64244102 |
| Jabal Amman Maternity | 643640 |
| Malhas, J. Amman | 636140 |
| Palestine, Shamsi | 66417104 |
| Sinai Hospital | 669151 |
| University Hospital | 845404 |
| Al-Musabbir Hospital | 66722109 |
| The Islamic, Abdali | 66612757 |
| Al-Ahli, Abdali | 66416406 |
| Italian, Al-Muhajreen | 7710103 |
| Al-Baskir, J. Asirafieh | 7511126 |
| Army, Marfa | 89161115 |
| Queen Alia Hospital | 60224050 |
| Amal Hospital | 674155 |
| ZARQA: | |
| Zarqa Govt. Hospital | 09983323 |
| Zarqa National Hospital | 09900560 |
| Ibn Sina Hospital | 09986732 |
| Al Hikma Modern Hospital | 09990990 |
| IBBID: | |
| Prince Baqaa Hospital | 02723335 |
| Great Catholic Hospital | 02722225 |
| Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital | 02747700 |
| AQABA: | |
| Prince Haya Hospital | 03314111 |
| FOR THE TRAVELLER | |
| QUEEN ALIA | |

| INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | |
|---|-------------------------|
| This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. | |
| ARRIVALS | |
| Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) | |
| 07:45 | Rome (RJ) |
| 08:15 | Sanaa (RJ) |
| 09:00 | Dubai (RJ) |
| 09:30 | Damascus (RJ) |
| 10:00 | Jeddah (RJ) |
| 10:30 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 10:30 | Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 10:30 | Beirut (RJ) |
| 11:00 | New Delhi (RJ) |
| 11:00 | Moscow (RJ) |
| 11:30 | New York Amsterdam (RJ) |
| 12:00 | Bangkok (RJ) |
| 12:30 | Beirut (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Dubai (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Dubai (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Beirut (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Moscow (RJ) |
| 13:00 | New York Amsterdam (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Bangkok (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Beirut (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Dubai (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 13:00 | Dubai (RJ) |
| 13:00 | |

Queen to chair meeting on improving status of rural women

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday will chair a meeting with several professionals and specialists in the field of women and rural development at Al Ma'wa Palace.

This meeting constitutes a brain storming session to discuss the implementation in Jordan of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women.

The declaration was adopted at the summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women held by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in February 1992.

The meeting is intended to review how involved institutions in Jordan can best serve to improve the status of rural women, establish networks between and among rural women and organisations, and strengthen rural women's capacity and access to services.

The Tuesday meeting is one of the follow-up activities which Queen Noor is undertaking in her capacity as a member of the International Follow-up Steering Committee (ISC) charged with monitoring and evaluating mechanisms for the implementation of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women.

It is one of a series of meetings and workshops to be held with professionals and concerned institutions with the objective of formulating comprehensive strategies for the advancement of rural women that will be coordinated with, and integrated within, the Higher National Women Commission's strategy for women.

Recommendations of the meeting and future meetings and workshops will form an integral part of the Queen's report to the 1994 ISC meeting in Brussels.

Kingdom celebrates Prophet Mohammad's birth anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Kingdom joins the Islamic World today in celebrating the anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's Birthday.

Prophet Mohammad was born in Mecca in the year 570 to the influential and prestigious tribe of Bani Hashem.

His grandfather had been the head of the tribe and prominent in Mecca politics.

In 599, while on a study journey with his uncle and guardian, Abu Taleb, the Prophet met his first wife Khadijah.

In 610, the Holy Koran was revealed to Prophet Mohammad through the Angel Gabriel.

Islam became the third monotheistic religion and is currently followed by millions of people worldwide.

From that time, at frequent intervals until his death, the Prophet received more revelations, which were collected and inscribed in 650.

The Koran endures until today as the divine revelation written in the very words of God himself. Mohammad died in the year 632.

Prophet Mohammad was admired for his courage, resoluteness, and impartiality, and for a firmness that was tempered by generosity.

He won men's hearts by his personal charm. He was gentle, especially with children.

Though he was sometimes silent in thought for the most part he was engaged in purposeful activity.

He walked vigorously and spoke rapidly. He became an exemplar of virtuous character, and stories presented him as realising the Islamic ideal of human life.

Mohammad's chief significance is as founder of a state and of a religion.

In his lifetime he created a federation of Arab tribes, which, in less than 20 years after his death, defeated the Byzantine and Persian empires, occupied a vast territory from Libya to Persia, and then developed into the Arab, or Islamic Empire.

He made the religion of Islam the basis of Arab unity.

Islamic doctrine maintains that God is the founder of the religion, not Mohammad, but he played an obviously important part in fostering the nascent religion.

His concern with ultimate questions, his mystical outlook, and his moral seriousness were important adjuncts to the preaching of the Koranic message.

Addressing a celebration Sunday on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein, Minister of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi said the Prophet spent the major part of his time praying and reading the Koran and left to the Islamic world a huge wealth of knowledge and sciences.

The second speaker at the celebration was Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour who said the Prophet had directed special attention to social welfare. He noted that the second Muslim Caliph, Omar Ibn Al Khattab, had enacted the first social code in the world to protect the vulnerable, the result of which was the establishment of a bureau for children.

Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Nooh Salman also addressed the celebration, saying that Prophet Mohammad had set an example for the Muslim World.

He referred to the many crisis which the Prophet had experienced and his suffering while spreading the message of Islam, noting that in the end of the Prophet won over his enemies.

Sheikh Salman praised King Hussein's initiative to maintain and restore the Islamic Holy Shrines, such as the Dome of the Rock, the tombs of the companions of Prophet Mohammad, and most recently his directives to reconstruct the Saladdin minbar in the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

The celebration was attended by several Cabinet ministers, diplomats and senior ministry officials.

A similar celebration was held by the Armed Forces, under the patronage of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt. General Abdul Hafeth Mira' Al Kaabneh.



Cabinet members, senior ministry officials, diplomats and citizens Sunday attend a celebration of the anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's birthday in the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The celebration was attended by several Cabinet ministers, diplomats and senior ministry officials. A similar celebration was held by the Armed Forces, under the patronage of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt. General Abdul Hafeth Mira' Al Kaabneh. (Petra photo)

Interior Ministry to accept voter list contests

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Interior Sunday announced that objections to voter registration lists will be accepted today (Monday) until Sept. 5. The display of these lists, lists of registered voters in different districts in the country, for the next parliamentary elections ended Sunday.

The ministry also set the period from Sept. 6 until Sept. 12 for the committee in charge to look into the objections raised by citizens; the period from Sept. 16 until 18 is limited to contesting decisions in court.

The First Court of Instance will rule on the contestations between the Sept. 25 and 27. Final voter registration lists will be displayed following the court's ruling.

Majali stresses citizens' role in decision-making process

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday stressed the importance of citizens' participation in the decision-making process, saying that the government and the public are partners in shouldering the burden and responsibility.

During a meeting at the Youth Ministry, Dr. Majali said the government can not do everything for citizens, and people themselves have to play their role.

He said the government will arrange for the election of governorate councils that will be entrusted with monitoring the implementation of the development policies in their governorates and revising and amending them.

Dr. Majali reaffirmed the importance of cooperation in addressing problems facing citizens and finding solutions to them through open and democratic debate and discussion. He added that such discussions should focus on the negative aspects first, because "freedom from fear encourages personal initiative and enhances belonging."

The prime minister called for decentralising administrative procedures to ease pressure on the central departments and ministries and save the citizens' time, effort and expense.

In this respect, Dr. Majali said, the ministries will draw plans and play a supervisory role, including control and monitoring. He explained that the role of a governor will be akin to that of the prime minister, assisted by department heads, similarly to ministers.

Dr. Majali said the budget law, for the first time ever, will provide each governorate with its own budget, and the ministry role will be limited to monitoring the aspect of the budget that concerns a particular ministry.

Dr. Majali called for directing special attention to women, saying that women make up half the society. If this half is absent, he said, then half of the society is denied participation in the production process.

Dr. Majali supported a proposal for setting up a fund to support the sports and youth movement and promised to seriously discuss this proposal.

At the meeting, Youth Minister Abdullah Owaidat reviewed the ministry's achievements and stressed the need for setting up a special fund to support sports and youth activities.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday meets with officials at the Ministry of Youth (Petra photo)

Ministry, RSS agree to control air pollution

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Sunday signed an agreement to control air pollution in Hashemiyah area in Zarqa Governorate.

Under the agreement, the ministry will provide all facilities needed to implement provisions of the agreement, including the monitoring of sites, where surveillance equipment will be installed.

The ministry will also coordinate field visits and seek necessary information from the concerned authorities.

The RSS will maintain a daily monitoring of air pollutants for a twelve-month period, using the World Health Organisation (WHO) standards and guidelines as a basic reference.

The RSS will also prepare a quarterly report on each site monitored and submit it to the ministry.

The agreement will be implemented over a period of 16 months.

It was signed by Abdul Rahim Malhas, the Minister of Health, and RSS President Hani Mulki.

Education minister reviews new policy in Mafraq

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Khalid Al Omari Sunday said the school is the basic educational unit from which the educational development process should start.

During a meeting with education officials and teachers in Mafraq Governorate, Dr. Omari reviewed the new educational policy, saying that the school will be the focus of development, according to the new plan.

The minister said a school-based development committee will be formed to supplement the Educational Development Council which will be formed at education departments.

The councils will comprise specialists in educational supervision and management who will be examining shortcomings and failures and suggesting solutions to them.

The minister noted that the education process is the largest national project through which we can face future challenges.

Dr. Omari said the ministry intends to grant special incentives to teachers working in remote areas and will give them priority in housing transportation and scholarships.

He called for neutralising the school from political work to secure its integrity.



PREMIER MEETS WITH FARMERS: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday receives in his office a delegation representing farmers from the Jordan Valley. Discussion at the meeting focused on concerns of farmers and the problems they encounter because of rising production prices and marketing bottlenecks that recur annually during the late summer when farmers find themselves forced to sell their produce at very low prices. The delegation called on Dr. Majali to exempt them from interest on outstanding loans and reschedule their debt, taking into consideration their ability to settle at a later date. Dr. Majali promised to help find solutions to some of their problems (Petra photo)

British firm chosen to evaluate RJ assets, financial status

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A British management consulting firm has been selected to conduct an evaluation of the assets and financial status of the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), and recommend the most feasible mechanism to privatise the airline, informed sources said Sunday.

According to the sources, the London-based KPMG Management Consultants was chosen from among eight international firms which submitted offers to conduct the study after negotiations on the final value of the contract.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the study will focus on the actual value of RJ based on its assets and capital.

The airline has assets with a book value of about \$450 million, and its capital is JD 22 million (\$33 million), a ratio described as ridiculous by industry experts.

An earlier study, on the overall performance of the airline, conducted by international consultants Arthur Andersen, recommended that the capital of the company be raised to at least \$100 million and that privatisation was the best means to address the massive debt problem of the airline.

The Arthur Andersen study found that the airline was a profitable organisation in terms of operational and administrative aspects, but RJ officials say the problem is the airline's debts, estimated at around JD 255 million, accumulated since the early 1980s.

Servicing the debts is estimated to cost the airline between \$35 million and \$40 million annually, not only wiping out its profits, but also plunging it heavily into the red.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali held an unprecedented in-depth meeting last week on the problems of the company and pledged that the government would move speedily to redress them through privatising the airline.

"The Prime Minister said that the airline's problems had lingered enough and it was time they were resolved once for all," said one of the participants in the meeting, which included several members of the Cabinet and senior officials of the airline.

Dr. Majali emphasised that the government was determined to push ahead with privatising the airline and there could be no turning back from this direction, said the official who attended the meeting.

However, many senior officials in the airline are resisting the idea of privatisation and are hoping that the move could be averted through direct government financing of the company — a prospect most senior officials reject outright.

"It is great to have a government-owned airline as a national symbol," said a former official who is closely familiar with the affairs of the airline.

"But in this era of moving towards free-market economy and in view of the preoccupation of the government with other pressing economic problems, it is unfair to expect the government to pour in tens of millions of dollars into an airline when privatisation could solve the problem."

The airline's 5,000-plus employees also fear that there could be massive layoffs if the company was to be privatised and changed hands.

But officials say that any privatisation process would definitely include a provision to avert such massive layoffs at least for the first few years of operation as a private entity.

The precise cost of the KPMG study contract was not immediately available; the sources would only say that it "could be between \$200,000 and \$250,000." The study is expected to be completed in three to four months.

According to the sources, a government-appointed committee is now looking for financing for the study, and it appeared that this aspect of the deal is most sensitive in official circles since no one was willing to comment how and where the financing was being sought.

But some officials say that in view of the pledge Dr. Majali made last week, the government would finance the study on its own. "Or they will come up with some mechanism to address this problem," said an official. "The study will not be stopped because of lack of funds."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Basma donates 800 school uniforms

IRBID (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma has contributed 800 school uniforms to needy girls attending Irbid governorate schools as part of the charity campaign of 1993, according to Nabih Al Rousan, director of the Princess Basma Social Services Centre.

Labour minister returns from Indonesia

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Khalid Al Ghazawi Sunday returned to Jordan after a six-day visit to Indonesia, during which he held talks with his Indonesian counterpart and senior Indonesian officials on scopes of bilateral cooperation. In an arrival statement, Mr. Ghazawi said Jordan and Indonesia agreed to form a ministerial team to assess bilateral cooperation over a six-month period in a serious attempt to forge closure cooperation. The minister said that both sides reached an agreement whereby instructors from the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) will be sent for training in Indonesian industrial institutions. He described his talks with his Indonesian counterpart as positive and successful.

JD 96,420 approved to implement municipal projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan approved the offering of JD 96,420 worth of tenders to implement projects in four local councils. The projects include the construction of four commercial stores in Qasr town in Karak, asphalted roads in Qatraneh, constructing a building for Muqarrah Village Council in Karak governorate and buying insecticides for Zarqa municipality.

JTV to start traffic awareness series

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Television (JTV) Wednesday Sept. 1 will air the first episode of a traffic awareness series targeted at children and students. The programme was prepared by the Public Security Department (PSD) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. The series is designed to promote awareness of traffic regulations and rules and will teach children how to avoid accidents.

Official urges protecting Wadi Rum

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Tourism Secretary General Nasri Atallah Sunday stressed the need to protect the touristic nature of Wadi Rum and decided to set up a special committee to look after cleanliness and public safety there.

Mr. Atallah said that Wadi Rum is the only desert tourist area in Jordan and that increasing numbers of foreign tourists come to see and experience it.

During a tour of the area, Mr. Atallah met with the board of directors and members of Wadi Rum Tourist Cooperative and discussed with them proposals for promoting and reviving tourism in the area.

He praised their efforts and programmes to promote the tourism industry and emphasised the need to provide modern vehicles to transport tourists to the various attractions in the Wadi Rum village.

Responding to a question on providing the village with electricity, Mr. Atallah said the ministry does not object to that, provided that cables are installed underground to preserve the unique status of this village.

He noted that it would be better for Wadi Rum, as a beautiful touristic area, to remain as is, without having electricity pylons and cables.

Mr. Atallah then toured Petra and reviewed with tourism officials there means of preserving the touristic environment of Petra encouraging internal tourism, in addition to developing traditional industries.



Wadi Rum's majestic beauty holds many a tourist in breath-taking awe of nature's wonders (File photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Al Shadi at Alla Art Gallery.
- ☆ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Housing Bank Complex exhibition hall.
- ☆ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshbaila Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
- ☆ New art gallery, "Darat Al Funnan," of the

Abdul Majeed Shoman Foundation. Programme includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Luweibdeh.

- ☆ Exhibition entitled "Reflections and Colours" by artist Zeinab Abbas Mahdi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition by Syrian artist Nadhir Isma'il at Basma Art Gallery.

SHOWS

- ☆ "The Eternal Torch," a variety of Circassian dances performances by Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Club at the club's premises in the Seventh Circle.

LECTURES

- ☆ Lecture entitled "The Cairns and Tombs of Harra" by William Lancaster at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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What, who comes first?

IT IS NO secret that, from the very outset of the Arab-Israeli peace process, Palestinians had harboured fears, mainly due to the complexity of their problem, about being left out in the cold as other Arab parties made progress on the other tracks. It was also clear from the beginning that the exclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) posed a serious and complex obstacle to achieving Palestinian national rights through the negotiations.

Thus, for the last ten rounds, the PLO leadership has been combining tactics to assert its role, and has been accepting, even putting forward, compromise formulae that would allow for continued Palestinian participation in the peace talks.

It is rather ironic therefore that it is the Palestinians, or more accurately the PLO, which is now making the first public claim, among the Arabs, of approaching a possible breakthrough through back-door negotiations with Israel.

There is no doubt that by opening negotiations with the PLO, even in secret, the Israeli government has finally come to terms with the fact that the organisation is the body that has the final say on the future of the Palestinians. But what could, under different circumstances, be an achievement for the Palestinian people is now raising alarming questions and concerns not only about Palestinian national unity — and Arab solidarity — but also about the whole future of the Palestinian cause and Arab national interests.

To start with, the failure of the PLO leadership, or those involved in the negotiations, to coordinate with the other Arab parties on such a crucial issue as accepting some sort of an early interim arrangement to be applied to Gaza and Jericho first, could serve to implement a long standing Israeli goal of cancelling any linkage between the various tracks.

Furthermore, for any Arab party to take any drastic step, without coordination, in such a sensitive and a crucial process there is always a real danger of undermining the Arab negotiating position including its very own.

There is nobody that does not hope for real progress towards solving the Palestinian problem, which remains the core of the Israeli-Arab conflict. But the ambiguity surrounding the Gaza-Jericho option, along with the conflicting Israeli and Palestinian interpretations of the deal, is a source of serious alarm.

After all, the Palestinians in particular, and all the Arab parties in general, have every interest in preventing any Israeli attempt to fragment the Palestinian cause and the whole peace process. What has transpired from the reported secret agreement so far does not quell such fears in the light of repeated Israeli statements that the arrangements will be confined to establishing autonomy in Jericho and Gaza while there is no talk about complete Israeli withdrawal or acceptance of Palestinian sovereignty.

The optimistic statements, made by some Palestinian officials who have been promoting the option in defiance of mounting Palestinian opposition, suggest that the PLO is hoping to establish a foothold in Jericho and the Gaza Strip to enable to lay the nucleus for a future Palestinian state.

All Israeli statements, however, indicate that even if the PLO leadership was indeed allowed to set up such an authority, its responsibilities could be reduced to paying the cost of continuing Israeli control — Israel will remain control of security — and repress Palestinian opposition after the dismal failure by Israel to stop Palestinian attacks against Israeli targets.

Nobody can underestimate or dismiss the significance of an Israeli willingness to make territorial compromise or to recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. But the recent developments, judging by Palestinian and Israeli accounts, raise serious concern that Israel is only trying to use the PLO to authorise the delegation to make concessions and to create a transitional stage during which Palestinian resistance is quelled by Palestinian authority.

The question that imposes itself here is of what use the PLO would be to the Palestinian struggle if it is stripped from its main historical role as the embodiment of the Palestinian national aspirations — and this a real threat that Palestinians and Jordanians alike should be aware of.

It is equally painful that our brothers in the Palestinian leadership, who do not seem to take the threat to the very existence of the Palestinian movement and the cause seriously, are also not taking into consideration the potential grave implications on Jordan of the Gaza-Jericho option.

The threat of Israel using Jericho as a conduit for emptying the land of its Palestinian inhabitants during the interim period is real, considering the current regional balance of power.

His Majesty King Hussein made it clear to the PLO chairman yesterday that Jordan would continue to support and respect the independence of the Palestinian decision, a principle that the PLO itself has always struggled to maintain. But taking into consideration the pressures that have been placed on the PLO leadership, through political isolation and withholding of financial aid, we think we have the right to ask the question: How can the PLO maintain its independence if it loses Palestinian support and alienates its Arab partners?

Questions to all steps that have been taken so far, they have to come if the people are to support the Gaza-Jericho first.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Self-perceived fear of Islam could act against Western interests

FEW MONTHS ago I attended an international meeting in Germany where representatives of NATO were also present. The major theme of deliberations was the new Islamic tide across the Arab and Islamic World and means to cope with or contain it. It became clear at the outset that NATO is searching for a "new enemy" to target after the collapse of the communist order in Moscow and elsewhere in Eastern Europe. The western defence alliance appears to be seeking a new *raison d'être* and is constantly searching for a fresh justification for its continued existence as a collective deterrent.

It was also made clear that Russia is far from being crossed out as a potential strategic foe in spite of the end of communism there. Moscow is almost a traditional enemy in view of its size and potential strength. There is bound to be a conflict of interest between major states because of economic if not political reasons. Besides, there is no sure way to tell whether Russians will revert to a totalitarian form of government as its history is replete with such cases.

China is fast developing into a superpower in its own right and there is no telling when China could replace the former Soviet Union as, at least, a second rate superpower worthy of reckoning with internationally.

Meanwhile, NATO must maintain its readiness to deal with all eventualities and the Islamic wave appears to offer some immediate threat that calls for combat readiness. Against this backdrop, one begins to understand the western reluctance to help out the defeated Muslims in Bosnia, in spite of the size and dimension of the atrocities that were committed against them. Europe is simply horrified by the thought of seeing an Islamic base constructed in their immediate backyard and no matter how horrific the crimes perpetrated against the Bosnian Muslims are, the old continent was not prepared to move militarily to stop the decimation of a fledgling Islamic state in Europe.

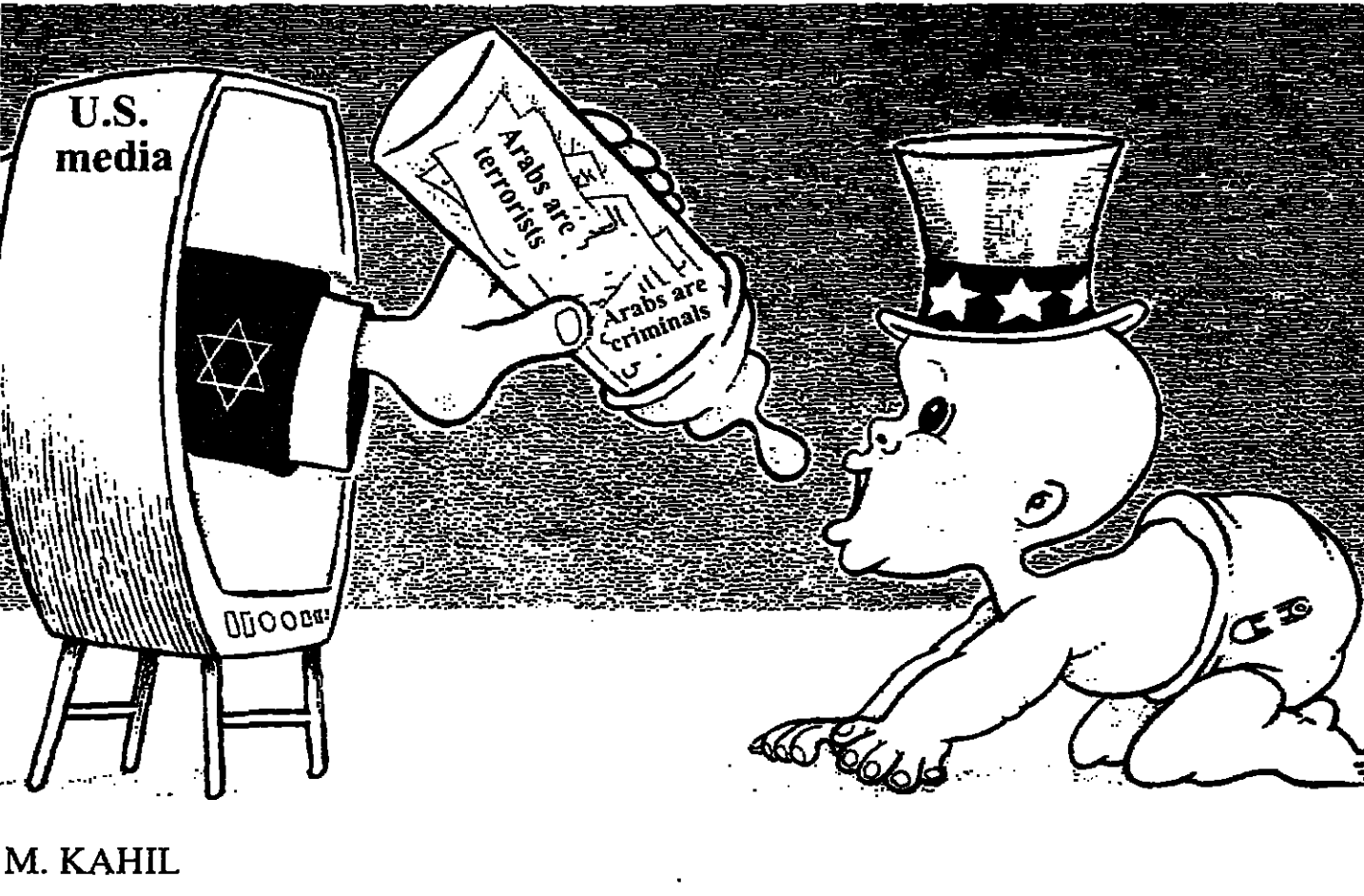
What made things more difficult for the Bosnian government, and may have turned the tide against it even within the Clinton administration, were the reports that Iran was seeking a base for itself within the Bosnian government. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic may have committed the mother of all sins from the western point of view when unconfirmed reports suggested that he had signalled to the Iranian regime his willingness to play ball

with it or even strike a strategic alliance with it in order to receive urgently needed material help. The fact that the Bosnian government was pushed into Tehran's embrace by Serbia's aggression did not seem to matter very much since, from Europe's perspective, the Iranian regime is the source of Islamic tide across the world and it must not be allowed a presence in Europe, whatever the cost.

By making "Islam" the new challenge for the West, however, the western defence alliance is risking increasing the fortunes of the Islamic movement instead of clipping its wings. Unlike the communist ideology, Islam has stronger and deeper grassroots support in the Islamic and Arab World. The fervour for religion may have been idle for some decades, or even centuries, but any attempt to make an enemy out of it is bound to have the counter effect that no amount of military or security-oriented anecdotes can be expected to stop.

Moderate Islamists sitting on the fringe of the conflict with Muslim extremists can be expected to join the fray on the side of Islam if the world is not careful in addressing the new challenges or dangers posed by the so-called new Islamic wave. In this vein, neither Algeria nor Egypt can be expected to succeed in dealing a death blow to Muslim extremists even by the style of combat chosen by these states for this purpose. Other Arab and Islamic countries can also be expected to face similar experiences if they do not opt for a more enlightened approach to the new phenomenon. The nature of Islam is such that a strictly military or security oriented approach against it would only add to its strength and acceptance on a wider scale.

Historically speaking, Islam became stronger when it was treated as an arch-enemy by the existing international order. Islam built its own empire and attained the status of a superpower as a direct consequence of the challenges and dangers put at its door steps. If it turned out to be true that NATO views Islam as a real threat, then it may be unsuspectingly lending an indirect support to its gaining new power. The hundreds of millions of silent moderate Muslims may be drawn into the battlefield against their will if their religion is made the target of the new international order. World leaders are invited to accord the recent Islamisation process a deeper thought.



M. KAHIL

Thais still seek culprits behind southern violence

By Sonya Hepinstall
Reuters

BANGKOK — Nearly one month after an arson attack on 34 schools set off a chain of violence in Thailand's southern Muslim-dominated provinces, Thais are still at odds over who is to blame.

The violence has so far claimed six lives and wounded dozens in Pattani, Satun, Yala and Narathiwat provinces. It included the ambush of an army engineering unit and an attack on a train in which a girl was killed.

From the very beginning the army blamed the July 31 arson attack and each subsequent incident on splinter Muslim groups trying to breathe life into a waning separatist movement.

But many in the government and local people in the provinces deny that religious fervour is the motivation. They suggest that disgruntled former leaders might be involved in an attempt to destabilise the coalition government of Chuan Leekpai.

Political analysts said Mr. Chuan would have to resolve the problem fast or risk permanent political damage. He will cut short a visit to China this week, apparently to deal with the issue.

"The government might have managed to muddle through a long list of other problems during its nearly one year in office," said the Bangkok Post in an editorial on Sunday.

"But it call ill afford to try muddling through the formidable security challenge in the deep south because its own stability as much as its credibility in the eyes of the public is further eroded by

every new terrorist attack."

Although the government has yet to declare a state of emergency or impose a curfew in the south, all primary schools in Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat will close for nearly three weeks while the investigation continues.

The first issue is the identity of the attackers.

The military says a faction of younger members of an old guerrilla group, the Pattani United Liberation Organisation (PULO), may be attempting to stoke up separatist sentiments. They say PULO may be unhappy that resistance seems to be waning due to the Chuan government's commitment to improving Muslims' religious freedoms in this mainly Buddhist country.

In the 1970s and '80s PULO sabotaged government offices, railways and railway stations to back demands for autonomy for southern Thai provinces bordering Muslim Malaysia.

"The fourth army region (in the south) has been engaging in a discussion with a part of that leadership, a moderate one, an ageing one," Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan said recently, explaining the army's rationale.

"There are some elements in that movement who might not be too enthusiastic about entering into discussion, negotiation, a compromise. They just want to create an issue, to show a flag, 'we're still here,'" said Mr. Surin, himself a Muslim from the south who was educated in the United States.

Arafat sparks economic boom in sleepy W. Bank oasis

By Barry Parker
Agence France Presse

JERICHO, Occupied West Bank — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's bid to turn this sleepy oasis, which claims to be the oldest town in the world, into the precursor of a Palestinian state has ignited an economic boom.

The price of land has doubled in the last month following Mr. Arafat's call for Israel to withdraw first from this West Bank site and turn it over to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"The Jericho first option presents a unique chance to invest," said businessman Ahmad Seif.

"In another year property and land prices will be out of reach," predicted the 30-year-old, the cost of 1,000 square metres has soared from \$10,000 to \$21,000.

Jericho, a brilliant splash of lush green palm and fruit trees on the edge of the Judean desert, became a virtual ghost town as recession struck in the wake of the intifada or uprising against Israeli occupation, which erupted in 1987.

Once a popular destination for tourists, most of the restaurants and hotels closed down, despite being the only crossing point into Jordan.

But the "Winter Palace" Hotel is now undergoing renovations as are numerous shops and guesthouses amid hopes that the rich Palestinians who once flocked for the winter sun will soon be back.

Reports that Israel and the PLO are secretly negotiating a deal for the Palestinians to take charge of Jericho and the Gaza Strip, have put a buzz in the air.

Mohammad Halayka, who heads the group in Jericho, has never seen anything like it. The 15,000 inhabitants are suddenly the envy of the more than one million Palestinians on the West Bank.

He said the money was for new factories, to develop tourist spots or renovate existing facilities.

The lowest town on earth, set 250 metres below sea level, Jericho, once gifted to Cleopatra by Mark Anthony, boasts important archaeological and religious sites, such as the remains of the ancient settlement around 7,000 B.C.

The Bible records how the Israelites captured the town in 1200 BC when priests' trumpets destroyed the walls and within a couple of kilometres lie the traditional site of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River and the Mount of Temptation.

Zohar David, one of very few Israelis working in Jericho, stands to make a fortune.

He has the Chez Zohar cafe and a vine grove at the entrance to the town since 1967, when Israel seized the West Bank from

Jordanian control. "I was perhaps the first settler and I will probably be the last," said Mr. David who lives in Vered Jericho, the nearest Jewish settlement.

"I do not hate Arabs, on the contrary, but if they take control of the town I will be forced to leave because I do not belong in their world."

"Many Palestinians have come to see me about buying me out for a better price than the place is worth. It's a perfect site on the road between Amman and Jerusalem."

Rajai Abdo, manager of Hisham Palace Hotel, wants to see something concrete happen before getting carried away.

"We expect the recession will end and hope to see better times, but little has changed so far," he moaned.

"We have started renovating but not on a grand scale because we do not have the money."

Business investment ground halt after 1967. Property and dealers are the only ones making money so far," Mr. Abdo said.



Mohammad Hafaz Al Qudwa, a 66-year-old cousin of Yasser Arafat, points at a portrait of the Palestinian leader 29 Aug. Mr. Qudwa is among many waiting for Mr. Arafat's return to the Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

Features

Troy treasure hoard sparks international dispute

By Sophie Pons

MOSCOW (AFP) — A treasure hoard believed to have belonged to King Priam of Troy is at the centre of a growing international dispute between governments and museums vying with each other to get their hands on it.

The fabulous collection of gems, unearthed by German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann when he discovered the site of the ancient city in the last century, has been in dispute since it was stolen by the Russian Red Army in 1945.

It returned to the spotlight at the start of the year when it was rediscovered in the vaults of a Moscow museum, where it had lain unnoticed for decades.

Now Russian authorities have once again thrust its fate into question, this time by announcing that it will be exhibited in Russia before it is shown anywhere else.

"This unique collection must be returned to the world, but its first exhibition will take place in Russia, then Greece, then Turkey and other countries," said Russian Culture Minister Yevgeny Sidorov.

The statement has caused some consternation internationally. Not least in Athens, where the Greek government had announced that it would host the world premiere of the exhibition.

The Bonn government has also expressed some surprise. Bonn has disputed the ownership of the collection, bequeathed to it in 1880 by Schliemann's family, ever since the Soviets stole it.

Last but not least, Ankara has also laid claim to the rare gems that Schliemann smuggled out of Turkish territory — the site of ancient Troy — into Greece.

The collection — some 9,000 items, including necklaces, diamonds, gold and silver tableware, dishes, shields and other rare military equipment, unearthed by Schliemann in 1873 — has never before been shown in an exhibition.

Russian officials only recently discovered that the treasures, believed by experts to be lost for ever after they disappeared from Berlin during World War II, were in their possession.

The Pushkin Museum, which announced that it had the collection at the start of the year, said it had not even known that the collection was in Russia, and said it was amazed by the discovery.

For years, "only one specialist had access to these items, Russian experts have only known about their existence for a few days," said the museum's curator Irina Antonova.

To further complicate any plans to exhibit the gems, Ms. Antonova told AFP that they could not be shown for at least two years, as a full inventory of each item had first to be drawn up.

Athens apparently has other plans. At the end of September a Greek delegation is due to arrive to seek permission to transport the collection to Athens, where they want to exhibit it in the palace of Troy — a vast neo-classical centre constructed by Schliemann.

"The collection — some 9,000 items, including necklaces, diamonds, gold and silver tableware, dishes, shields and other rare military equipment, unearthed by Schliemann in 1873 — has never before been shown in one exhibition."

They are basing their plans on a promise allegedly made by Russian President Boris Yeltsin during an official visit to the Greek capital in June. That that promise is to be honoured seems doubtful.

The age of the collection itself has also come back into question. "The pieces have been dated to around the year 3,000 B.C., that is about 1,200 years after the era of Priam, Troy and Homer," according to the Russian Culture Ministry cited by the Journal Literaturnaya Gazeta.

In one bid to help settle the matter, an international archaeological expedition which is currently working at Troy has recently offered to help the Pushkin Museum, according to the Gazeta.

In another development, which may shed some light on the matter, Russia is planning an international conference on the life and work of Heinrich Schliemann, dismissed by his contemporaries as an amateur.

Kid from death row lives to tell a tale

By Karl Maier

Gen. Buhari was overthrown on 27 Aug. 1985, by Nigeria's current military president, General Ibrahim Babangida, but the executions continued. The Civil Liberties Organisation estimated there were at least 120 executions in 1990.

Their court case, presided over by one of Nigeria's toughest judges, Moshood Oluwalan, was riddled with problems. "The whole trial was full of procedural irregularities and overt bias against the convicts... I have no doubt in my mind that if this case were to come before an appellate court, it would succeed, the conviction would be overturned and a verdict of acquittal substituted," Bayo Manawa, the Lagos state director of public prosecution, wrote to Col. Rasaki in 1988.

"It is therefore my considered recommendation that the military governor be advised to disallow this conviction and order the immediate release of the convicts from custody."

Two years later, however, Col. Rasaki confirmed that the executions would go ahead, but the human rights groups intervened with the court injunction. "Sleep and pray were the only things to do," said Mr. Francis, "I had already lost hope."

Politics intervened in the form of an elected state governor, Michael Otedola. Mr. Otedola's decision to pardon the "kid robbers" was a popular one, especially at Mr. Francis' village.

"This boy was a teacher for us. He would come around with his Bible and we had prayers every day," said Richard Ghenu, a distant uncle. "He was gone so long but now we are strong again having him back."

Since his release in January, however, Mr. Francis has only been back at weekends. The People's Bank, a government institution that provides low-interest loans to the poor, awarded each of the freed "kid robbers" 10,000 naira to set up their own trade.

Mr. Francis has gone to Badagry to sell gari, the manioc-based staple porridge, and rice. Business is bad because of rampant inflation, now running at over 100 per cent a year. But Mr. Francis said his prison experience convinced him that he should leave Lagos. Rents are high, too.

The human rights groups that launched the campaign on behalf of the "kid robbers" he views as saviours. "Without Biko and the CLO, we were lost," he said. Ironically, today Dr. Ransome-Kuti is in jail facing charges of sedition and conspiracy because of his role in organising pro-democracy rallies this month in Lagos.

Mr. Francis will always be suspicious of the government. He was not even sure if he should accept the loan. "I fear that if I do not repay it, the police will come back for me," he said — The Independent.



Gloomy times ahead for these Nigerian boys in a slum

Tokyo — where streets have no names

By Seth Sutel
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Many streets in Tokyo have no name. The house numbers aren't in order. Veteran taxi drivers get lost.

These are mean streets for a 30-minute pizza delivery guarantee.

It's taken tactical reconnaissance and a unique zoning system, but Ernie Higa is delivering the goods — sometimes to customers who order a pizza just to see if the pizza man can find them.

Domino's pizza isn't the first to be baffled by the Tokyo street system — if you can call it that. Some say the chaos is a charming relic of the bustling city's origins as a sprawling collection of villages. Others, like Mr. Higa, say it's a public nuisance.

"There's no rhyme or reason to how the streets were laid out," laments Mr. Higa, president of the company that runs 102 Domino's in Japan under license from the American parent.

"Tokyo is supposed to be one of the most sophisticated cities in the world, but you have to find your way by gut feeling."

Restaurants and shops in hard-to-reach places rely on maps on the back of their business cards and advertisements to guide customers.

For them, the arrival of the fax machine was a great boon. Now most Tokyoites who live or work in back streets keep "setsumei chizu" (explanation maps) next to their fax machines, ready to send off to the next potential visitor.

Tokyo's innate confusion results mainly from the haphazard way the city was rebuilt after it was flattened by a colossal earthquake in 1923 and by firebombing during World War II.

Most buildings were thrown up in a hurry, with minimal government guidance, along roads laid out during feudal times. Some historians say the road patterns were made intentionally confusing to thwart direct attacks on the imperial palace at the heart of the city.

"Tokyo," mused French literary scholar Roland Barthes, "reminds us that the rational is merely one system among others."

Many other Japanese cities were planned more carefully, although the practice of naming streets other than major thoroughfares has not generally caught on in Japan.

Instead, cities are broken into neighbourhood-size districts and divided into numbered sub-districts of several blocks each. Without a detailed map, however, there's no telling in which direction any district lies.

And buildings are not numbered sequentially, but in the order built. That means house No. 13 could be between No. 3 and No. 4.

When he started his business, Mr. Higa worried less about getting lost in Japan's myriad business regulations than about just plain getting lost.

His partners warned he'd never make good on Domino's 30-minute delivery guarantee.

But Mr. Higa devised a system to help his scooter-straddling delivery squads get pizzas to their customers on time.

Each store has enlarged maps of its delivery area pasted on the wall, showing specific addresses and the names of most residents. Each area is limited to how far a scooter can go in seven minutes during rush hour.

Markers on the maps show where upcoming deliveries have to go, so returning drivers can pick up their next pizza, quickly visualise their goal, and head right back out.

"People used to order pizzas just to see if we would get it there in time," Mr. Higa said in an interview. "After all, everybody gets lost here."

But some Japanese claim that a hidden order lurks beneath Tokyo's chaos.

"The sense of order we're trying to build up here is different than in the West," says Kisho Kurokawa, a prominent architect. "We've been trying to find order without order."

The crucial element is a box-like construction factory that sits on top of the emerging building, and edges skyward like a giant plant at the rate of one storey a week.

Obayashi says its automated construction system cuts the number of on-site workers to a sixth of the usual.

Part of the trick is to prepare component parts off-site, then get machines to assemble them at the building site.

Components are moved using automatic lifts. Giant vacuum suckers stick to floor panels and hoist them into place, welding robots on circular tracks seal beam sections.

Another builder, Taisei Corp. has developed a system consisting of a covered platform that sits atop the building's central core. The platform is raised using a powerful jack. Crane operators can build the outer sections of the building six floors below.

Taisei aims to reduce, not eliminate, on-site workers. It can build a floor in three days, compared with five or six for normal methods.

Japan harnesses high-tech to automate buildings

By Sebastian Moffett
Reuters

TOKYO — Another skyscraper rolling off the old assembly line? Could be. Japanese builders are automating the construction process in a bid to boost efficiency, improve safety and reduce the need for labourers.

On the site of a nearly completed building by Obayashi Corp. workers sit watching progress on TV screens and monitoring robots.

The nearest most come to manual labour is pressing buttons and pulling levers on machine controls.

"On a normal building you need lots of skilled workers, but here we have machine operators," said Tetsuo Okawa, general manager of Obayashi's Construction Engineering Department.

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However, the companies admit there are limitations.

Mass production means there cannot be much variation from floor to floor. And to justify the time and expense of setting up the system, a building needs to be around 20 storeys high or more.

Demand for this class of building has been hard hit by the economic downturn.

With the systems still in their infancy, the companies will not predict how economical they will be in the future.

But while they may not yet be about to save construction companies enormous sums of money, they should at least brighten the industry's image, construction industry officials said.

This will please young Japanese workers, who have been less than enthusiastic about joining the industry, with its image of danger, dirt and low wages.

The projects, which several of Japan's biggest construction groups are working on, began in the late 1980s when the economy was roaring and was in the grips of a severe labour shortage.

Labour became a sellers' market, and young Japanese spurned manual labour in favour of smarter office jobs. Though in a brief respite now, the labour shortage is expected to worsen later this decade after the number of new graduates peaks.

Obayashi estimates that Japanese construction sees 1,000 deaths and 30,000 injuries each year — another factor adding to the industry's negative image among potential employees.

Having fewer on-site workers lessens risks, as does the working environment in the box-like factory — the maximum distance one can fall is just three metres.

"Initially these (systems) tend to be a bit gimmicky as it is very difficult to automate construction processes," said Mark Brown, senior construction analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

But he added: "In the long term it makes sense that R and D (research and development) should be going on in this area. In the long run there is going to be a labour shortage."

As well as putting off potential employees, accidents also make customers queasy, as they feel a labourer's death taints a new building.

"No one likes someone dying (while) putting up their building," said Obayashi's Okawa.

But more than this, customers like the precision that an automated site gives.

Days off for bad weather mean most builders have to factor season and geography into their forecasts of building time. But with a roof-covered system work continues whatever the weather, and a customer's schedule is more easily met.

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Tokyo streets — a nightmare for some, order without order for others (File photo)

EC chief wants world economic body



Jacques Delors

LORIENT, France (R) — European Community (EC) chief Jacques Delors called Sunday for an umbrella international organisation — an economic security council — to be set up to watch over the world economy.

Mr. Delors, president of the EC's executive commission, told a seminar in this French Brittany port existing world organisations had failed to respond to the challenge of modern economic interdependence.

He also said the EC was a "house in danger" and needed new impetus to spur moves to greater European union.

International bodies dealt with their own sector without a global view of monetary, financial, trade, social and environmental problems, while the much vaunted summits of Group of Seven top industrial nations were just "a mountain that gave birth to a mouse."

"This is why I favour setting up an economic security council that, without substituting existing bodies, would regularly take stock of the world economy without neglecting any of its parameters," he said.

Mr. Delors said the proposed watchdog should include the United States, Japan, the European Community, China, Russia, and the heads of African, Asian, Pacific and Latin American regional organisations.

They would gather with representatives of major economic bodies such as the International Monetary Fund, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and World Bank.

"This council would recommend policies to cut imbalance affecting parts of world economy and respond to challenges crucial for the progress or survival of

humanity," he said.

Mr. Delors was delivering the closing speech at a seminar on "the planet village" organised by Club Temoins (witnesses club), a group he founded with French socialist politicians.

Following Europe's recent currency crisis and failure to adopt a decisive joint approach on Yugoslavia, Mr. Delors called the EC "a house in danger."

He blamed setbacks on the lack of economic convergence and political will to press ahead with European union and compared the EC's common foreign policy with a grand prix car running with a small engine.

"Why try to hide it? If we stick to this course... there will be no single currency," he emphasised.

"Behind this short-sightedness probably lies the lack of a strong political will to press ahead with the only collective scheme that will allow Europe to turn its back on decline and loss of world influence," he said.

The danger was so obvious, he said, that heads of state and government should be jolted into action at the forthcoming emergency EC summit, and supporters of political union must be prepared to do battle for a federal Europe.

Mr. Delors said the time of small steps was over, and trying to repair the European Monetary System dented by the widening of currency fluctuation margins would not be enough.

"A new initiative must be taken by those who want to give our... countries the political instrument that will allow them to progress in an union solidly ensured by a political community, a community of peoples and nations," he said.

Yen's surge sparks heated debate in Japan over investment in Asia

TOKYO (AFP) — The yen's advance to new heights has ignited a heated debate here over the benefits of shifting key manufacturing technologies abroad as Japanese companies begin considering a second wave of investment in Asia.

"Japanese companies will certainly accelerate moving production bases abroad, rather than exporting goods and parts tagged with extremely high prices," said Tamiya Kimura, an analyst at Yamachi Research Institute Inc.

"But the shift might lead to the deterioration of domestic industry and the hollowing out of the Japanese economy," Mr. Kimura warned, using the buzzword of the mid-1980's which has recently made a comeback with the yen's latest surge.

Kanji Hayashi, from the Asia Bureau of the powerful Federation of Economic Federation Organisations (Keidanren), reckons the incentive to shift production abroad is now greater than seven years ago when the yen's appreciation triggered the initial flood of investment towards Asia.

The strained infrastructure in some countries in Asia, notably in Thailand, has sufficiently im-

proved to welcome higher technology from Japan, he said.

"The recent yen's rise will spur the speed of transferring production bases and technology to Asia," said Mr. Hayashi, whose bureau was established in April to monitor the growing output of Japanese companies in neighbouring countries.

Although it will take time for the impact of the stronger yen to filter down to actual decisions by companies on major new investments, the currency's appreciation to almost 100 yen to the dollar is already being felt in Japan.

Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. has recently decided to cancel plans to make upmarket compact-disc players and radio-cassette players at a plant operated by an affiliate in southeast Japan, resulting in the loss of 170 jobs.

The products will instead be made in Singapore, Malaysia and possibly China, where Sanyo already has production facilities, company officials said.

Pioneer Electronic Corp. announced earlier this week that it planned to shift more production abroad to cope with the stronger yen, which contributed

to a 59 per cent plunge in consolidated earnings in the three months to June.

Foreign manufacturing for production sold abroad, mainly audio equipment, is targeted to rise from 30 per cent to 50 per cent over the next three years.

A spokesman for Mitsubishi Electric Corp. said: "The trend will continue as long as we try to avoid the negative effects of exchange rates," a spokesman said.

But Japan Federation of Employers Associations Chairman Takeshi Nagano, who is also chairman of Mitsubishi Materials Corp., the country's biggest processor of non-ferrous metals, expressed his concerns in a recent interview.

"Japan will lose everything if it immediately moves production abroad in response to currency fluctuations," Mr. Nagano told the Mainichi Shimbun. "Once you leave the country, you can't come back any more."

Toshio Watanabe, a professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, noted that only 10 per cent of Japanese products were manufactured abroad compared with more than 20 per cent for several other industrial nations.

China forming two strategic 'policy' loan banks

PEKING (R) — China said Sunday it was forming state banks to focus on two of the government's top strategic priorities — foreign trade and long-term development.

The new banks, to open next year, are part of a two-month-old restructuring of the finance sector. The sector has been blamed for generous but illegal lending to property and stock market speculators at the expense of crucial but less profitable national development.

The shift will help the People's Bank of China "to become a real central bank, which is the goal of the country's financial reform," the official China Daily quoted Zhao Haikuan, head of the Bank's Finance Research Institute, as saying.

The new Long-Term Development and Credit Bank and Import and Export Bank will focus on strategic "policy" loans, leaving more profitable commercial lending to the quasi-independent specialised banking sector, the China Daily said.

The specialised Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Bank of China and Agricultural Bank of China will be "freed up" from the "high-risk, low-return policy loan business," it said.

"Liberating (them) from the burden of policy loans, it will be easier to transform China's specialised banks into true commercial banks," the newspaper said.

The Long-Term Development and Credit Bank will provide loans for infrastructure-related construction projects in energy, transport and other vital sectors, the paper quoted Lou Jiwei of the State Commission for Economic Restructuring as saying.

"These projects need long-term and low-interest loans but commercial banks are reluctant to offer them because of their high risk and low profit," Mr. Lou said.

The Import and Export Bank, offering trade credits, export credit insurance and project finance, "is expected to give a strong push to China's trade expansion by stimulating exports of large machinery and electronics products," Mr. Lou said.

He said the new banks are expected to finance their lending mainly from their own capital, which is to be raised through domestic bond issues.

Initial capitalisation of the two banks was not announced.

Economics supreme and vice-premier Zhu Rongji, who took charge of the People's Bank of China in July, has vowed to transform it into a Western-style institution guiding monetary policy through control of credit and money supply.

The new banks will enable the central bank to get out of the specialised and commercial banking business.

U.S. to wage export war on two fronts

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government is plotting a two-pronged offensive on behalf of U.S. business that would promote exports and peel back strict controls on technology transfers, officials said.

An interagency group led by the Commerce Department will wrap up a broad study on U.S. export promotion next month, laying out what went wrong in past U.S. efforts to boost key industries overseas and how money might be spent better.

"We already spend a decent amount of money on export promotion, but we don't have a conscious, coordinated policy," said an administration official on condition of anonymity.

"If you don't have good information and don't collect data, how can you develop analysis?" he said. "We already pick who we help — I don't know if that's winners or losers — but the desire now is to figure out a unified budget."

The report, prepared by the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, is due out at the end of September.

Exports have been driving weak U.S. economic growth in increasing measure, and the administration says that every \$1 billion in overseas sales translates into 19,000 jobs at home.

"So the stakes are simply too high not to make significant changes. Export expansion is one of the pillars of President Clinton's overall economic programme," said a senior Commerce Department official.

Just as the Clinton team insists on "measured success" when dealing with its trading partners,

it will now set itself barometers to gauge the results of its export drive.

"We want to come up with real solid performance measures to drive an overall coherent strategy," said the commerce official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity. "You are what you measure."

Among the stated objectives of the overhaul:

— To better support the private sector, using existing resources, by creating a more focused and effective strategy.

— To leverage government resources by strengthening both private-public and city-state partnerships.

— To remove or reduce government barriers to exports.

"There's a desire to be a bit more conscious, to see how much is spent in each area," said the administration official.

For instance, he said, how much is spent promoting low-tech "widgets" versus high-technology products and what returns are reaped on the two government investments?

"What kind of jobs is each creating? What proportion are we spending on each? Is that too much on the widgets?" said the official, outlining the sort of activist export policy that rattles U.S. trading partners.

According to the senior commerce official: "We want to expand the realm of the possible — to target the appropriate places in which government can help business export more."

"We're seeking the focus and activism that has been missing in the past," he said.

India buoyed by dramatic export surge

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's exports have surged dramatically in a sign that industry is looking increasingly outward as it emerges from a domestic recession, taking advantage of a weaker and free-floating rupee.

Trade data for April-June, the first quarter of the fiscal year, shows that export earnings had zoomed 27.76 per cent to \$5.12 billion over the first three months of the previous financial year.

Imports dropped 2.66 per cent to \$5.42 billion, dispelling fears of a flood of overseas products resulting from lower import tariffs and cutting the trade deficit from \$1.5 billion to \$301 million.

The Federation of Indian Export Organisation called the export performance, albeit over the depressed earnings of April-June 1992, "remarkable."

It is "one of the most encouraging features of the current economic scene," The Observer of Business and Politics commented.

The upward trend, which started in February and March when India enjoyed a trade surplus, is cause for hope that the export target of \$22 billion in fiscal 1993-92 may even be exceeded, the daily said.

The ambitious target announced in June represents a 20 per cent jump over the export performance in 1992-93, when overseas sales grew by a dismal 3.61 per cent and the deficit doubled to \$3.3 billion.

Exports of many products, including iron ore and drugs, plunged, partly because of lost markets.

South Korea worried by low economic growth

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's economic recovery is taking longer than expected in spite of President Kim Young-Sam's efforts to stimulate the economy, and some analysts fear the country is in for a period of prolonged stagnation.

The Central Bank of Korea (BOK) said last week that South Korea registered a 3.8 per cent economic growth rate during the first half of the year.

Mr. Kim, on taking office in February, said his priority was to reinvigorate the country's sagging economy, declaring that South Korea must achieve this year at least six per cent to seven per cent growth.

Samsung Economic Research Institute Director Kim Dong-Sung said after the BOK announcement that South Korea appeared to be falling into prolonged economic stagnation and forecast growth would be four per cent to 4.5 per cent at best.

That would be lower than the disappointing 4.7 per cent growth registered last year under the Roh Tae-Woo government and a far cry from the double digit growth rates of the mid-1980s.

According to Mr. Kim, Mr. Kim's Aug. 12 decree banning the use of aliases in all financial transactions threw cold water on business leaders' plans to make new investment in plant facilities.

Facility investment shrank 5.7 per cent during the first six months of the year, although the government had lowered interest rates and released funds to encourage industrialists to make new investment.

Mr. Kim said there were few signs of increasing domestic consumption and investment.

According to the Office of National Statistics, the nation's industrial production fell 1.2 per

cent in July, as manufacturing plants operated at 79.2 per cent of capacity, down from 80.5 per cent in June, belying government economists' predictions the economy would start bottoming out from June.

Local press reports said the nation's business leaders were not happy with Mr. Kim's enforcement of the so-called "real name" system at this time.

The Federation of Korean Industries, which groups the top leaders of the nation's business conglomerates, or chaebols, supported the move.

But one chaebol chief was quoted as saying: "The real name system should have been put into force when the country's economic recovery is put back on track."

He added that if the government wanted industry to make new investment to boost the economy, it should first bring down high interest rates by carrying out a drastic monetary reform similar to that in rival exporting countries such as Japan and Taiwan.

South Korean business circles have long argued that their export products could become far more competitive on international markets if money rates were lowered.

Korea University economics professor Kim Dong-Ke said a sweeping anti-corruption probe launched by Mr. Kim, which included the arrests of a number of senior officials in the previous government, had also sapped investment sentiment.

The country's largest circulation Chosun daily said in an editorial that the main reason why investment had not revived was that industrialists were still worried about uncertainty surrounding the Kim administration's economic policies.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY AUGUST 30, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Get friends to help you put affairs on a more modern basis and try to side step any argument that could occur under the mid-day Moon square Pluto aspect that is affecting your chart.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Think about how you can best put your most interesting capabilities to your advancement and then you will be able to advance towards your aims.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take a good look at your residence and consider what you can do to make it more habitable, then you can add those conditions to achieve this worthwhile purpose.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think about those with whom you have been routinely allied for sometime past and let them know you appreciate and want more constructive progress.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about your property and possessions and what you can do to improve them and then quickly put into motion some beneficial results.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Decide what your long range plans and ambitions of a personal nature are early, then you can visualise the best means to make them a part of your life.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You now have a chance to organize and analyze your thoughts

and ideas so that they can be far more productive for you in the days ahead.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) First consider your long planned for desires and then consider new and progressive means by which they can become an active part of your life.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You start the week with good ideas for more stability to worldly activities and reputation, then you can add some additional zip to your life.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider plans for taking a trip that has been planned for sometimes and then add some further places to go or persons to contact.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have been trying for sometime to get mate to do what you want and if you approach from a different angle you can achieve this result now.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have one who has been reliable for a long time to assist your early in the day while later a more modern and up to date person is helpful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the day when you can organize and plan whatever your activities early on a very intelligent basis while later put more zest into doing them.

Hong Kong urges banks to further tighten mortgage lending

HONG KONG (AFP) — The Hong Kong government has said it had urged banks to consider tightening up lending criteria to curb rampant growth in mortgage portfolios.

In a new warning about the risk of a speculative bubble, David Carse, deputy chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), urged banking institutions to review and if necessary beef up lending criteria to stop excessive growth in property lending.

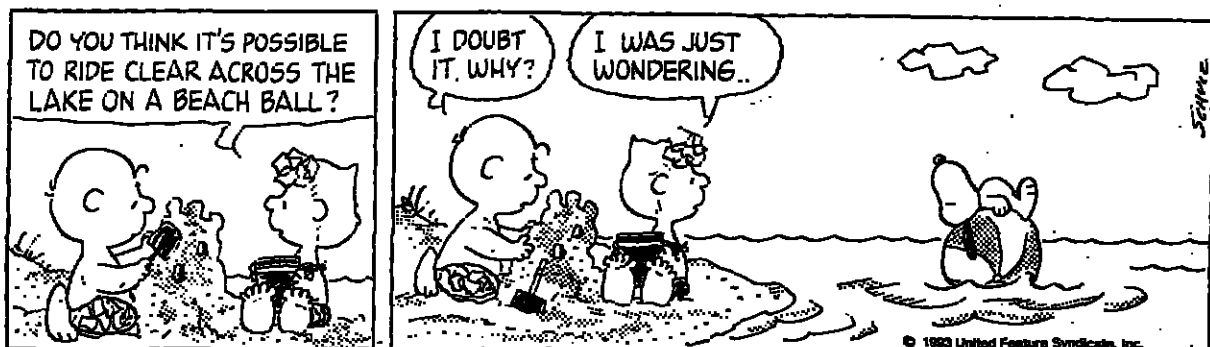
"The rate of growth has now risen to 30.2 per cent per annum,

compared with 25.3 per cent per annum in the three-month period to June," he warned in a letter to the Banking Industry Association made public by the HKMA.

Mr. Carse also warned that residential mortgage lending in the territory was growing at the fastest rate since the end of 1991 when the government set a ceiling of 70 per cent ceiling on loans in order to curb rampant speculation.

The ceiling, calculated as a percentage of a property's purchase price, aimed at pricking speculation fuelled by banks offering loans of as much as 90 per cent.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

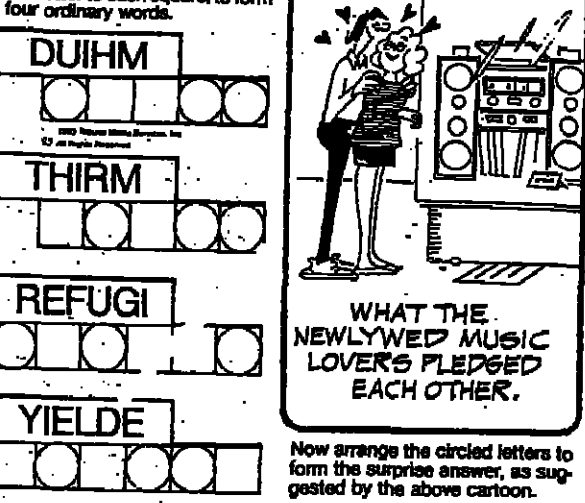


"I dreamed the tea kettle whistled when you walked by, so you sued it for harassment."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



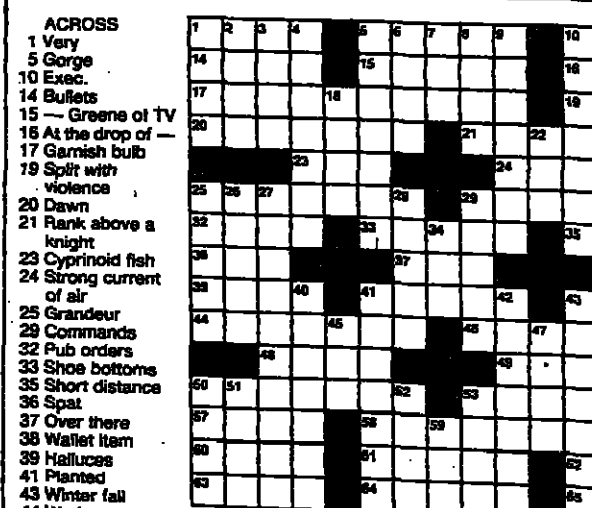
Answer:

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRIME SCARF HEARSE ANGINA

Answer: How the Englishman described his wife's driving — "SMASHING!"

THE Daily Crossword

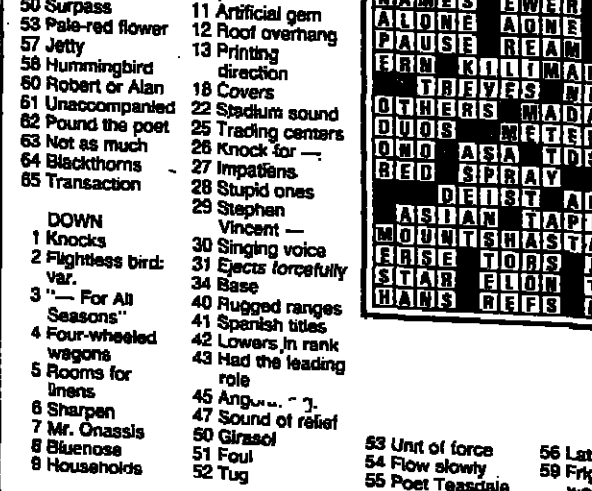
by Harold B. Counts



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09/08/93

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Azeris vote to formalise removal of President Elcibey

BAKU (R) — Azeris voted Sunday in a referendum on fugitive President Abulfaz Elcibey, a poll seen by diplomats as a way of formalising his effective removal from power during an armed rebellion in June.

Turnout was brisk at polling station No. 3 in central Baku, where one-fifth of the local electorate had already cast their votes in the first hour.

Blaming Mr. Elcibey for disastrous defeats in an undeclared war against Armenia over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, a stream of people leaving the booths said they wanted the passionately pro-Turkish nationalist out of their lives.

"I voted against him. Elcibey bears the guilt for everything that has gone wrong. It's he who has let the war drag on for so long and the bloodshed of Azeris continue," said Afed, a well-dressed middle-aged housewife.

"I tell you, 99.9 per cent of people want him to go."

Mr. Elcibey, who fled Baku

last June to escape an armed rebellion and is in hiding in his remote home town, has refused to resign.

A no-confidence vote in Mr. Elcibey in the referendum would pave the way for new presidential elections, which former communist leader Haydar Aliyev said would take place within three months, as stipulated in Azerbaijan's constitution. Mr. Aliyev has stood as acting president since June.

Many Western nations have expressed doubts about a "legally questionable" nationwide vote conducted in a country at war, clogged with refugees and ruled under a state of emergency.

But Mr. Aliyev, the 70-year-old grand old man of Communist-era politics, said he had no choice.

"I have run the country as acting president for more than two months. We can do that on a temporary basis, but we can't go on living like this," he said. "We can't lift the state of emergency now. But given that President

Abulfaz Elcibey has been away for so long, we can't not hold a referendum."

The result of the vote is expected some time Monday, but no precise time has been given yet.

The few who admit voting for Mr. Elcibey in June 1992 elections, in which the historian and former dissident won 59 per cent of votes, said they felt bitter his government had not kept promises to end the war and improve their lives.

"Last year we all voted for him," said Taril Kulbanov, a civil engineer who fled the Azri town of Agdam last month as advancing Armenian forces spread east out of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Aid agencies believe 200,000 people are now on the run from the Armenian advance in a country of seven million.

"We believed in his talk about democracy. But he didn't do anything he promised. He didn't know how to run the country and now it's falling to pieces," Kulbanov said.

"Our hopes now are pinned on Aliyev," Kulbanov added. "He's the only man who can save us. If he fails, the country itself will disintegrate and there will be no more Azerbaijan to save."

Western diplomats, who privately concede most Azeris trust Mr. Aliyev, say he is the best politician the Transcaucasian state has, and they will decide after the poll whether to rethink their initial disapproval of him.

Mr. Aliyev, an ex-KGB security police general and favourite of former Kremlin leader Leonid Brezhnev, is popular all over Azerbaijan. Baku residents point fondly to the huge buildings which went up all over town in the 1970s, before Mr. Aliyev moved on to Moscow to become a Soviet politburo member.

Most people agree a strong hand is needed to cope with the threatened disintegration of this small ex-Soviet state, bordering Iraq to its south and Armenia along an ever-shrinking Western border.



Newly elected President of Singapore, Ong Teng Cheong (centre), is greeted by his supporters Sunday soon after he was declared the winner in Singapore presidential elections (AFP photo)

Government man wins Singapore polls

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singaporeans have elected government nominee and former Deputy Premier Ong Teng Cheong as their first president with executive powers, but left a large anti-establishment vote intact, analysts said Sunday.

Mr. Ong took 58.7 per cent or 952,513 of valid votes cast, according to official returns announced Sunday, but former government Chief Accountant Chua Kim Yew surprised with a strong showing.

"Chua is a nice man but he really had nothing to offer. His votes must be counted as anti-PAP (People's Action Party) votes," said lawyer Joshua Jeyaretnam, a former opposition

member of parliament (MP) barred from running by a government commission.

Mr. Chua, 67, who confessed the government had urged him to enter the race to provide a contest, polled 670,358 or 41.3 per cent of ballots cast after a low-key campaign the left Singaporeans wondered if he really wanted the job.

He was written off until two days before polling when, in a surprise switch of tactics, he asked voters to back him to ensure that the PAP, which has ruled this prosperous commercial hub for more than 30 years, did not amass too much power.

"Do you want the PAP to dominate the presidency as

well?" he said, in the second of two television appearances, alluding to Mr. Ong's position as party chairman and deputy premier, posts he quit to run for the presidency.

Mr. Ong was also endorsed by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Mr. Goh's predecessor Singapore patriarch Lee Kuan Yew and the PAP itself, although Mr. Goh said he could work with Mr. Chua if the retired civil servant won.

Mr. Lee had mooted the revamped presidency in the mid-1980s, saying it was necessary to guard against the chance of a profligate government winning power and squandering Singapore's huge reserves now totalling some \$43 billion.

China has 800 million TV viewers

PEKING (AFP) — Two-thirds of China's population, or 800 million people, watch television, according to a new survey. The figure was 200 million more than the late 1980s, the Xinhua News Agency quoted a China Central Television (CCTV) survey as finding. The survey found that one in five Chinese own a television set, up from one in 400 when the country's reform and opening policies were started in 1978. Xinhua said. It said the most watched television programme was the main evening news. There were 41,000 satellite earth stations, an 800-fold increase from 1985, the survey said. The news media is still tightly controlled by the Communist Party, but programming has been diversified along with the acceleration of market reforms this year. Private satellite dishes have also made it easier for Chinese to get around government censorship.

British royals, at turn of century, used narcotics

ABERDEEN, Scotland (R) — The British royal family turned to cocaine and heroin for medicinal purposes in around the turn of the century, according to pharmacy records. British newspapers seized on a report in a Scottish magazine that Queen Victoria and other royals ordered cocaine and heroin-based remedies when holidaying at their Balmoral estate. Records from 1897 to 1914 from a long-closed pharmacy near Balmoral showed royals and others, including a young Winston Churchill, ordered items such as Belladonna or cocaine lozenges to be "sucked occasionally" for a variety of ailments. Such drugs were still regularly prescribed in the early part of the century, before being made illegal in 1920. "Opium was a common addictive drug at the time," said a spokesman for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. "It could be bought in the grocer's shop and cheaper than alcohol."

Man awarded compensation for failed vasectomy

WELLINGTON (AP) — A tribunal has awarded \$5,000 dollars (\$4,400) to a man whose wife became pregnant after his vasectomy failed. The man, whose name was not made public, had the vasectomy in 1976. After his wife gave birth in 1988, he filed for damages. The New Zealand Press Association reported that the man told the accident compensation appeal authority he underwent the procedure because he and his wife already had several children. Doctors assured him at the time of the operation that he would become sterile. In a decision handed down this week, the authority deemed the failed vasectomy a "medical misadventure," or an accident for which no one was to blame. The government will pay the man, who has since undergone a second vasectomy, through a taxpayers' accident fund.

Bar fined \$200 for not charging for water

CHIETI, Italy (AFP) — The owner of an Italian bar has been fined the equivalent of \$200 for serving a glass of tap water with a slice of lemon to a customer without charge. Giacomo De Angelis, the owner of the bar in this Adriatic resort town, said that financial police told him that he should have issued a sales ticket for 500 lira (30 cents). Italian bars generally serve glasses of water without charge to people whether they are customers or not.

Colombian drug cartel horse castrated

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Enemies of fugitive drug boss Pablo Escobar who abducted his brother Roberto's million-dollar horse returned it castrated Saturday. The horse was found tied to a tree in Medellin, the base of Escobar's multimillion-dollar cocaine syndicate, police said. A sign near the animal read: "Terremoto, we return you to the feared Roberto Escobar and brother." "Terremoto" — "earthquake" in English — was once priced at about \$1 million, but castration vastly reduced his value. The animal was stolen last month from a ranch belonging to Roberto, who is in jail. Pablo Escobar has been on the run since last year, when he escaped from a luxurious prison. He had surrendered in June 1991 to authorities in exchange for the possibility of a light jail sentence. Police blame the horse abduction and castration on the people persecuted by Pablo Escobar, an anti-Escobar group that has killed at least 50 of the fugitive drug boss's associates and destroyed several of his properties.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CIA to open cold war files

NEW YORK (R) — The CIA is preparing to release thousands of files on some of its most controversial cold war operations, including the bungled 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba and U.S.-orchestrated coups in Guatemala and Iran in the 1950s, according to the New York Times. A report in Sunday's editions of the newspaper quoted unidentified government officials as saying the spy agency would make public files on every major covert operation it had been involved in from 1950 to 1963. Public disclosure of the files, which would occur in the coming year, is sure to hurt the image of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), given the sensitive nature of the information to be disclosed, the officials conceded. But they said the move was necessary to fall in line with promises of openness the agency has been making since the end of the cold war.

Clinton pays tribute to King

EDGARTOWN, Mass. (AP) — President Bill Clinton pledged Saturday to work for redemption of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of equal opportunity in America, but said the country has a "long way to go." "Quite simply, we've still got a lot to do in a town where change is hard and words too often substitute for real action," Mr. Clinton said in a radio address to the nation. His weekly broadcast blended praise for the slain Civil Rights leader with an assessment of his seven-month-old presidency. Mr. Clinton taped it Friday in the oceanfront home where he has been vacationing since Aug. 19. "Many people say I'm pushing too hard for change," he said. "Well, 30 years ago today, Martin Luther King said, 'this is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or the tranquillizing drug of gradualism.' Thirty years after a call to conscience echoed across America, a new assertive generation marched on Washington Saturday, pressing demands for jobs and justice and trying to rekindle Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream. Under a relentless sun, the marchers retraced 1963's 'emancipation march on Washington' with the common theme that legal equality is empty without economic opportunity. The crowd was far smaller than the 200,000 who heard Dr. King's 'I Have a Dream' speech on Aug. 28, 1963 which led to the enactment of civil rights and voting rights laws and helped change America."

ICRC to appeal for respect

GENEVA (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), mourning the deaths of three of its staff, will try this week to revive respect for humanitarian law and for its own much-abused emblem. Delegates from almost 160 states, including around 40 ministers, will attend the three-day international conference for the protection of war victims, jointly organised by the ICRC and the Swiss government. Among them will be representatives from Bosnia-Herzegovina, making what could be their farewell appearance at such a forum if Serb, Croat and Muslim leaders in U.N. Headquarters across the road sign a peace plan to partition their republic along ethnic lines. The meeting has been called to reinforce public awareness of the 1949 Geneva Conventions designed to protect civilians and prisoners during times of war as well as those working under the Red Cross or Red Crescent emblems. Switzerland is the depositary government of the conventions, which 181 countries have recognised as binding, and the ICRC effectively monitors their implementation.

Nigerian strike worsens fuel shortage

LAGOS (R) — A strike over the military's installation of an untested government-owned refinery worsened Nigeria's petrol crisis Sunday, further crippling the city Lagos. People queued for hours outside petrol stations, and motorists jostled and yelled in the scramble for petrol and there were frequent fistfights among motorists wielding jerry cans. The strike, called by the 3.5-million-strong umbrella trade union Nigeria Labour Congress began Saturday at the same time as a strike by the 50,000-strong oil workers union Nupeng. Public utilities like water and electricity appeared to be operating normally but the fuel shortage that has plagued oil-producing Nigeria worsened as drivers refused to lift fuel at refineries.

Russian parliament goes on offensive

MOSCOW (R) — Boris Yeltsin has predicted a black September for his rivals in Russia's parliament but it is the legislature that enters autumn on the offensive. When parliament refused to back down on high-spending budget plans Friday it came as no surprise in Moscow or in Western capitals where Russian finances are watched nervously. The country's legislators will be no more pliable next month. President Yeltsin has said he will name a strong figure before the month is out to run the Security Ministry, replacing Viktor Baranikov who was sacked three weeks ago. "There choice has effectively been made," Sergei Filatov, head of Mr. Yeltsin's personal administration, told the newspaper Kommunisticheskaya Pravda. "You may find it an unexpected choice." Mr. Yeltsin will need a powerful security chief in place for the month if he plans, as he hints, radical action to press through autumn parliamentary elections.

Chinese kidnapped in Philippines

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen abducted a wealthy ethnic Chinese businessman near this southern city Sunday, defying an intensive government drive against kidnapping, police said. Ricardo Tong, 70, former manager of a large shipyard, was riding a mountain bike in the coastal village of Kawi early Sunday when four men forced him into a car which was later found abandoned, they added. There was no immediate word on the condition of Mr. Tong, former manager of the Varadero De Recondo, one of the biggest shipyards on the western side of Mindanao Island. Police believed Mr. Tong was taken by boat to the lawless island of Basilan off Zamboanga, where some 2,000 government troops and police have been waging a manhunt for a kidnapping band led by former Muslim separatist guerrillas.

Cambodia seeks rebel concessions before talks

PHNOM PENH (R) — Prince Norodom Ranariddh, co-leader of Cambodia's interim government, said Sunday the Khmer Rouge guerrillas should submit to government demands before any new talks.

Government officials say the Khmer Rouge has been trying to arrange round-table discussions with the government and head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk in the North Korean capital Pyongyang next week.

Prince Ranariddh told reporters that because the problem was a Cambodian one, any such talks should take place in Phnom Penh, but it was up to Prince Sihanouk, his father, to decide.

"In my opinion we should await his return to Cambodia on the 15th of September to have a round table, if the Khmer Rouge respects our position," he said.

Prince Ranariddh said H'm Sen, his partner in leading the interim administration, had advised him that before agreeing to any talks they should insist on Khmer Rouge compliance with government demands that it dismantle its army and open up its zones of control.

"If those conditions are fulfilled there is no problem to accept to put them in the national army and as advisors to the government," Prince Ranariddh said.

The Khmer Rouge, whose revolutionary rule in the 1970s killed a million Cambodians, is demanding such an advisory role despite boycotting U.N.-run elections in May and refusing to implement Cambodia's 1991 peace agreement.

It called for urgent talks after the government army launched big attacks earlier this month that drove the guerrillas from strongholds in the northwest.

Prince Ranariddh, Mr. Hun Sen and other senior politicians are due to fly to see Prince Sihanouk in Pyongyang Monday, taking with them a draft of a constitution.

France suspends aid to Central Africa

BANGUI (AFP) — Vote counting continued Sunday in the Central African Republic as France warned that its co-operation with the country would only resume if a bid to alter the electoral code was withdrawn, French Foreign Ministry officials said.

Central African President Andre Kolingba issued decrees Saturday altering the electoral code and constitutional court makeup when first results of the Aug. 22 election put him in fourth place.

Marcel Loudegue, vice president of the Independent Electoral Commission, said the president's decree had "not taken into

account the spirit of consensus" in the commission, which is headed by a member of the opposition, and that as he had acted "without asking the advice of the commission's members, we did not feel we had to obey."

"In principle, there is nothing to stop the Supreme Court from publishing the results as planned" on Aug. 30, Mr. Loudegue said.

Early Sunday a senior French diplomat, Michel Lunven, told Mr. Kolingba that Paris condemned the measures and insisted on an "immediate" restoration of the democratic process, the French Foreign Ministry said here.

On Sunday morning, with virtually all votes counted, Mr. Kolingba was in fourth place with 11.46 per cent of the vote. Former Prime Minister Ange-Felix Patasse was in the lead with 39.94 per cent of the vote, followed by former President David Dacko who won 21.51 per cent and Abel Gombas in third place. The remaining votes were split between four other candidates.

France was heavily involved in the logistical preparation of the election. It used the 1,400 French soldiers stationed in Central Africa to distribute urns, voting booths and voting bulletins, and used planes and helicopters to collect the results.

U.S. satellites said aiding Angola army

JOHANNESBURG (R) — U.S. spy satellites are providing Angola's air force with intelligence, dramatically increasing the accuracy of its attacks on UNITA rebels, according to diplomats and military analysts.

"The Americans ... have been furnishing the Angolan government with such information since soon after (U.S. President Bill) Clinton switched sides," a diplomat told Reuters, quoting well-placed sources in the Angolan military.

Military analysts said government forces were fighting with a new sense of purpose and had achieved several successes during the past few weeks, including hard-hitting air attacks on UNITA's Huambo Headquarters and an air-supported ground thrust towards the city, the rebels' central highlands stronghold.

Manuel Augusto, head of the Angolan diplomatic mission to South Africa, said he was not in a position to confirm or deny the

satellite reports. U.S. diplomats said they did not wish to comment.

"The main reason for our success is the reorganisation of the army. We are doing what we are doing without outside help. Stories of U.S. spy satellites could be part of an attempt by UNITA to explain its setbacks," Mr. Augusto told Reuters.

A Luanda-based diplomat said he believed the Angolan Air Force had used U.S. satellite intelligence to pinpoint and destroy a large UNITA relief convoy between Menongue and Cuito in Bie province, 150 kilometres from Huambo.

"The air attack was very deadly," the diplomat said. "As a result of it, UNITA was unable to reinforce its men at (the besieged city of) Cuito."

Meanwhile, three people were killed by unidentified gunmen who ambushed relief lorries straggling behind a U.N. aid convoy in Angola's Benguela province, an aid official said Sunday.

World Food Programme (WFP) official Mercedes Sayagues said three lorries were hit by gunfire near Catenge Saturday after dropping behind the main 75-truck convoy delivering food to war refugees in Cubal and Caibambao.

Three drivers were killed and one was wounded. One of the trucks was partly destroyed, Harare-based Sayagues told Reuters by telephone.

Mr. Sayagues said she did not know who attacked the convoy which was travelling through an area recently recaptured by government forces from UNITA rebels.

"Several vehicles dropped out of the convoy with punctured tyres. After the repairs they left Catenge without permission of the Angolan military to try to catch up," she said. The WFP has been moving thousands of tonnes of food aid in trucks since UNITA attacks on relief aircraft forced it to suspend mercy flights to Angolan inland cities.

Jackson aide cites \$20 million 'silence' demand

LOS ANGELES (R) — A lawyer demanded \$20 million from Michael Jackson to buy a child's silence on sexual abuse claims, the pop superstar's private investigator said in a published interview Sunday.

Investigator Anthony Pellicano said he countered with a \$350,000 offer to the lawyer for a Beverly Hills dentist who threatened to make public sexual-abuse allegations by his young son against the singer, now in Singapore on a world tour.

He said the man, dubbed "dentist to the star," wanted the money to become a Hollywood screenwriter.

Mr. Pellicano said the father and lawyer threatened to accuse Jackson of child molestation and to make those charges in court documents related to a parental custody battle unless the money was paid, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

The report followed confirmation from official sources that police were taking a closer look at claims from Jackson's camp that the abuse allegations grew out of the father's failed attempt to blackmail the entertainer for millions of dollars.

Jackson and his entourage arrived in Singapore Saturday for his next round of concerts and was joined by longtime friend, actress Elizabeth Taylor, who rushed to his side to lend support. He has denied molesting the 13-year-old boy, and police have

so far come up with no physical evidence to support the filing of criminal charges against the singer.

Mr. Pellicano told the Times that the father and his son met Jackson and the private investigator at a southern California hotel on the night of Aug. 4.

At that meeting, Mr. Pellicano said the father demanded that Jackson set him up as a screenwriter and accused Jackson of molesting his son, the Times reported.

Jackson did not respond during that meeting, and the father stormed out of the room, Mr. Pellicano told the Times.

Later the same night, Mr. Pellicano said, the father's lawyer proposed that Jackson pay the father \$5 million a year for four years in exchange for not going public with the allegations, the newspaper reported. The money was to be paid in the form of four film development projects.

Mr. Pellicano said he refused that offer and the next day told the father's lawyer that he would pay the father \$350,000 as a film development deal, according to the newspaper.

"I was trying to set him up with the extortion," Mr. Pellicano was quoted as saying. "I wanted to see if he would take it."

Instead the father took his son to a therapist on Aug. 17, and the child reported a history of alleged sexual abuse by Jackson, touching off a criminal investigation.

Mr. Pellicano said he has shared details of the meeting with police, but there was no mention of why he had not taken the case to authorities before news of the controversy broke last week.

The father, who has not made any public comment on the case, has told friends that the allegations of attempted extortion are untrue, the Times said.

It is illegal to attempt to trade silence for money in a criminal case, and any lawyer involved can be barred from practice, legal experts say.

As Jackson prepared for a Sunday concert, Taylor broke her silence. "I totally believe 100 per cent in Michael's integrity," she said in an interview with Newsweek magazine en route to Singapore. "He'd rather cut his own wrist than harm a child."

Earlier this year, during a rare television interview with Jackson, Ms. Taylor was asked about the singer's sometimes eccentric behavior. "He's the least weird man I know," the legendary Hollywood star replied.

The boy, who is at the centre of a custody dispute between his divorced parents, claimed that Jackson's advances began with affectionate cuddling and later involved masturbation and oral sex, according to files obtained from a California Department of Children's Services investigation.

Jackson's brother Jermaine was quoted by a British Sunday

paper as saying he is innocent and his family believes him.

Jermaine also criticised their sister Latoya, who was quoted earlier this week as saying she had warned Michael about his friendships with young boys.

"Latoya has gone too far this time," the Mirror quoted Jermaine as saying. "She didn't speak to him about that."

He added: "They don't speak and haven't spoken for years."

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He added: "They don't speak and haven't spoken for years."

Meanwhile, Jackson marked his 35th birthday in Singapore Sunday without apparent ceremony ahead of the first of two self-out concerts.

Jackson arrived in Singapore Saturday evening on the second leg of his Dangerous tour.

"Michael Jackson has no particular programme or schedule Sunday other than his performance," said Elaine Au, spokeswoman for the promoters, adding: "We did not make any special arrangements for his birthday."

He said soon after his arrival that he wanted to have a good rest as he was very tired after his concerts in Bangkok," she said.

Bosnia partition plan hits snags

SARAJEVO (AFP) — A proposed plan to carve-up Bosnia into three ethnically-based mini-states appeared boomed Sunday as the Bosnian and Croat leaderships demanded modifications and the Serbs threatened to withdraw already offered concessions.

The plan, brokered by European Community (EC) mediator Lord Owen and his U.N. counterpart Thorvald Stoltenberg, was to be discussed Monday by Bosnia's three warring parties at a new round of negotiations in Geneva.

Over the weekend, representatives from each side met separately to vote on the plan with the Serbs approving it, the Croats attaching conditions to its acceptance and the Muslims pressing for major changes.

Bosnian Parliament Speaker Miro Lazovic told a press conference Sunday that the Geneva plan could not be approved in its present form "but could serve as a basis for the continuation of the talks."

He said the Bosnian delegation to the peace talks would ask that substantial changes be made to the plan. He did not provide specifics on the changes.

Meanwhile the country's collegial presidency, comprising Serbs, Croats and Muslims, was holding its own meeting on the issue Sunday.

Two of its members, Miro Lasic, a Croat, and Miro Pejanovic, a Serb, said earlier that the presidency "acting as a parliament" would meet to take "the final decision."

Late Saturday, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic warned Bosnian lawmakers against a conditional acceptance of the Geneva plan, threatening to withdraw already offered concessions if they did so.

"Imposing conditions on the Geneva plan is equivalent to rejecting it," he told a press conference after his parliament accepted the plan by 55 votes in favour, 14 against with three abstentions.

"It was agreed in Geneva that the concessions we made at the last minute provided a solution. If they are not considered as a solution we withdraw them," he added, saying the plan was "a last chance" for the Muslims.

He was speaking after the Bosnian deputies, meeting in Sarajevo, voted to carry on with the Geneva talks and to demand substantial changes in the proposed plan.

The Bosnian leadership has repeatedly pressed for changes to the maps outlining the boundaries of the three proposed mini-states that are to be carved out of the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The self-styled Bosnian Croat parliament also gave conditional acceptance to the plan after meeting on the issue Saturday.

Approving a motion by Bosnian-Croat leader Mate Boban, the assembly said it was "ready to accept" the plan, provided that the republic's two other warring parties — the Muslim-led Bosnian government and the Bosnian Serbs — also approved the draft.

However, the resolution demanded that parts of central Bosnia be ceded by the Bosnian government, and that the Croats be given a swathe of territory to link two proposed Croat areas in the northeastern Bosanska Posavina region.

The current proposed plan would give the Serbs, who accounted for 33 per cent of the pre-war population according to the 1991 census and who now control 70 per cent of Bosnia, 52 per cent of the territory.

The Muslims, who made up 48 per cent of the pre-war population would get 30 per cent of the territory, the Croats who accounted for 19 per cent of the pre-war population would retain 17 per cent of the country.

Rebel Serbs of Mount Ozran in northern Bosnia plan to snub the Geneva peace plan agreed by their leadership and create their own autonomous enclave, a local official told AFP Sunday.

Under the proposed plan dividing Bosnia-Herzegovina, the region would come under Muslim jurisdiction.

"If we cannot be part of the Serb republic (self-proclaimed on 70 per cent of Bosnian territory), we will create an autonomous enclave. We will not be controlled by Muslims and are ready to fight," said Thimor Gligoric, president of the Ozran regional council.

Extremists seek to terrorise military justice — judge

CAIRO (AP) — A military judge said Sunday eight Muslim extremists attacked the car of an army general in July in an attempt to terrorise the military judicial system which has sentenced 22 militants to death.

Major General Abdul Moneim Nafea was reading out the indictment against eight defendants, four of whom are at large. It was the first official confirmation that a military car, which escaped unharmed, was the main aim of the July 18 attack. Two gunmen and two bystanders were killed in the shooting.

"The aim was stopping one of the institutions of the state from carrying out its duties," Gen. Nafea said. The defendants are also accused of joining an illegal group aimed at overthrowing the government, killing two men and attempting to kill eight others including the three occupants of the military car.

The car was carrying Maj. Gen. Osman Shaheen, commander of Cairo's central military area. But police sources at the time said the attackers thought it belonged to Maj. Gen. Ahmad Abdullah, head of the military courts, who usually takes the same route.

President Hosni Mubarak started referring the extremists to military courts last year to ensure the speedy trials of the radicals who have been waging a bloody campaign to turn Egypt into a Muslim theocracy.

Twenty two extremists have been sentenced to death by the military courts. Fourteen have been executed and the rest are at large.

Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, one of the main extremist groups in Egypt, claimed responsibility for the attack on the military car, saying it was to avenge the hanging of five radicals the day before.

The four defendants on trial in the Red Mountain military barracks courthouse north of Cairo denied the charges during Sunday's three-hour session and the court was recessed until Sept. 7.

The foreign press have been banned from attending this trial. Journalists working for Egyptian newspapers are allowed to attend.

Other military trials have been open to the press. In a related development, military sources said that a second batch of 65 defendants belonging to the Vanguard of Conquest extremist group go on trial next Saturday. More than 700 members of the group are involved in

Police arrest 115

Police have arrested 115 Muslim militant suspects in Upper Egypt in a massive crackdown over the past two days, security sources said Sunday.

They said all were rounded up in the tourist resort of Aswan, 690 kilometres south of Cairo. A security official in Cairo said the sweep was part of a national operation against militants launched after an attempt to assassinate Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali on Aug. 18.

The militant group Al Jihad (holly struggle), seeking to overthrow the Egyptian government and set up a strict Islamic state, said it carried out the bomb attack on Gen. Al Ali, in which six people were killed and 14, including him, were injured.

Aswan, a main tourist attraction for its pyramidal remains, was a tranquil resort until last March, when police raided a militant mosque and shot dead nine people in retaliation for the militants killing a policeman who guarded a church.

Several bombs have since exploded in the town. The security official said similar arrests would be carried out across Egypt to curb militant activity.

Thousands stone police station

Thousands of protesters in western Egypt attacked a police station with stones on Sunday after an officer beat and seriously injured two brothers.

Residents of Siwa oasis, near the border with Libya, were angered that high school teacher Mohammad Abu Bakr was beaten up by the local police chief, Major Sami Anwar, after a row over a driver's licence.

The teacher's brother came to the rescue but was also beaten. The protesters attacked the station with stones until police reinforcements were sent in from Marsa Matruh, 300 kilometres away, to restore order, a correspondent at the scene said.

Human rights groups have often accused Egyptian police of brutality, leading Interior Minister Ali to announce on taking office in April that any policeman committing such abuses would be punished.



NOMINATION: Leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Benazir Bhutto (right) chats with a civil judge of district session court in Larkana. Mrs. Bhutto has submitted her nomination papers before a civil judge for the forthcoming election of the national assembly (AFP photo)

Rebels launch counter-assault against Khartoum's forces

KERWA, Sudan (AFP) — The rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has launched a counter-offensive against Sudanese government forces and has halted their southern advance, rebel sources announced here Sunday.

The SPLA claim that an advance by government forces to the now-deserted town of Kaya had been halted has been confirmed by relief agencies helping refugees fleeing the fighting.

"We have not heard of any fighting in the past 10 or so days," Jasmin Krischer, a doctor in the Dutch branch of Medecins sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) said.

Refugees fleeing the fighting also said that for one week now, the Sudanese air force's high-flying Antonov bomber planes had stopped aerial raids on rebel positions near the Sudan-Uganda border.

About 60,000 refugees have crossed into northern Ugandan district of Koboko, while 47,000 more are displaced inside Sudan around the border.

Unconfirmed reports said that the population was herded into this remote village which lies about 160 kilometres from the regional capital Juba by a contingent of SPLA fighters that instructed the population not to seek refuge in Uganda.

Rebel sources told AFP that John Garang's faction of the SPLA had resisted the capture of Kaya with a heavy deployment of troops there, and an official of one of the aid agencies said rebel forces were now advancing towards Morobo, a village 55 kilometres north of Kaya captured by government forces three weeks ago.

The 47,000 displaced inside Sudan have not sought refuge in Uganda, despite pathetic condi-

tions they live in. Virtually the whole population lives under trees in the lush tropical vegetation.

Hundreds of men would be seen constructing huts, which are badly needed at this time when rains fall almost everyday.

"Only God knows how we manage to keep alive. It rains on us every day," 60-year-old Kosi-ma Obior, whose 12-year-old daughter lay under a tree suffering from malaria, told AFP.

Asked why he did not wish to seek refuge across in Uganda, he said: "We have been told to stay here," refusing to answer any more questions.

An official of the John Garang's SPLA humanitarian wing, Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (SRRA), Phillip Chol, denied that the population was being kept against its will by the SPLA.

"You can see there are no SPLA fighters holding anyone hostage here," he told AFP in reaction to earlier reports that heavily armed SPLA forces were holding thousands of displaced people by using them as a human shield against bombardment of Sudanese government forces.

But relief agencies and U.N. officials said they believed the SPLA leadership had refused to allow the population to cross into Uganda.

"Take it from me that the population has been directly or indirectly refused to cross into Uganda by the SPLA," an official told AFP.

The SRRA official maintained that the population had lived together in three camps east of the Nile and considered themselves as one family.

"We consider ourselves as one family. To move or not to move can only be a collective decision," he said, explaining that the ex-

perience they had in Ethiopia had taught them not to be keen about seeking refuge outside Sudan.

Thousands of Sudanese refugees faced hostility when Mengistu Haile Mariam's regime collapsed in neighbouring Ethiopia. Relief officials pointed out, however, that Dinka people could be reluctant to join other tribes, notably the Kokus, now in refugee camps in Koboko, 54 kilometres northeast of the regional capital Arua, because of ethnic animosity between the two tribes.

Some refugees in Koboko told AFP that the Colonel Garang's Dinkas had looted their property in Kaya and had also raped their women, a claim since confirmed by relief officials who have said that SPLA's Dinka-dominated troops had committed atrocities in areas around Kaya.

The U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and relief agencies are worried that thousands of the displaced people in Kerwa could die from disease because of the overcrowding and shortage of food and medical services.

"We cannot assist you unless you cross into Uganda and declare yourselves refugees," frustrated UNHCR Representative in Uganda Ahmad Farah told a crowd of the displaced population that had gathered at Kerwa school, where classes are normally conducted under mango trees.

Earlier reports that the 47,000 people were inside Ugandan territory have been dismissed by Uganda's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Kirunda Kivejinja.

In a statement released this weekend, Mr. Kivejinja said that displaced population was in Sudanese territory and also denied that Sudanese fighter planes had bombed Ugandan territory.

Hariri reports Egyptian aid pledge

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (Agencies) — Egypt has pledged to increase its contribution to an Arab aid package to help rebuild South Lebanon, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said here Sunday before leaving for Morocco.

He told reporters after a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak that "Egypt has promised to increase its quota, set at \$10 million."

The foreign ministers of the 21-member Arab League decided in Damascus on July 31 to provide \$500 million in emergency aid to rebuild thousands of buildings destroyed or damaged in the weeklong Israeli bombardment of South Lebanon at the end of July, and to equip the army which has been deployed in the south.

Mr. Hariri arrived Sunday in Egypt on the first leg of a new tour which includes stops in Tunisia and Algeria in search of Arab financial help.

He is being accompanied by Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid who had also joined him on a visit this month to Syria, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

On Aug. 22, officials travelling with Mr. Hariri said six Gulf Arab states would give Lebanon \$400 million, a sum accounting for all but \$100 million that the Arab League promised last month.

The officials had said the remaining \$100 million in aid would be provided by other Arab countries, including Egypt and Syria, with each disbursing \$10 million. Arab resolutions to provide aid are notoriously hard to turn into cash.

IAF to contest polls in 'full force'

(Continued from page 1)

also argues the changes were limited and would eventually harm "national unity."

Dr. Farhan said the IAF would carry the "legal battle" for electoral reforms to the 12th Parliament through its elected deputies who would lobby for dividing Jordan into a number of constituencies equal to the number of seats in the Lower House, lowering the voting age from 19 to 18 and "giving political parties a larger role in the electoral process."

Jordan is currently divided into 20 voting districts drawn in accordance with administrative local government divisions. Seats ranging from two to nine are assigned for each governorate or district.

Dr. Farhan warned that the IAF's decision not to boycott the elections is not final. He said the front would pull out of the elections if the government tampers with the electoral process.

The IAF's reaction to the unilateral government changes of the election law was severely criticised by other opponents of electoral changes who charged the "Islamist never represented true opposition."

In commenting upon reports that Islamists had struck a deal with the government in order not to boycott the elections, Dr. Akaleh said: "The government would not have changed the election law if it had signed deals with the (IAF)."

The IAF last week decided against boycotting the elections during a meeting of its "shura" council, the highest decision-making authority of the IAF. The 120-member council voted 85 to 16 for taking part in the elections. Nineteen members did not attend the meeting.

The council, in a statement it issued after its meeting Thursday night, said it took the decision because "the positive results of contesting the elections outweigh the negative ones and to guard

against the grave dangers that a decision to boycott the elections would pose for the higher interest of the states and the future of Islamic political work in Jordan and the Muslim and Arab World."

The IAF leaders stressed they will continue to seek the establishment of an Islamic state through gradual reform and non-violent means.

"We seek power in order to establish reform. We seek majority in Parliament and we do that through constitutional means so that we initiate the process of reform," said Dr. Akaleh.

Dr. Farhan urged the government to "rise to the level that King Hussein wants it to reach" and warned that the IAF will watch it for any practices "that might favour one party over the other."

Dr. Farhan, also a former minister of education, said the front would "soon" announce the names of its candidates for the coming Parliament and that it would "take the necessary action" against any members who choose to run for the elections independently.

Touching on other regional issues, Dr. Farhan blamed the violence in Egypt and Algeria on the failure of the regimes in Cairo and Algiers to communicate with their peoples. He said dialogue provides the best means for ending the violence in these countries.

Dr. Farhan reiterated his party's call for lifting the sanctions against Iraq, saying Baghdad would "win the battle the West is launching against it by resorting to Islam, national reconciliation and the initiation of shura and democratic reforms."

"The solution lies inside Iraq," he said. Dr. Farhan also called for terminating the peace process with Israel and expressed opposition to proposals for confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian entity as well as the Gaza-Jericho option on the grounds that both proposals aim at preventing the creation of a Palestinian state.

Iraqi team heads for U.N. talks after delay

AMMAN (Agencies) — An Iraqi delegation left Sunday for talks at the U.N. headquarters in New York after the U.S. government offered to give them security escorts, an Iraqi embassy spokesman said.

The Iraqis balked at the trip on Saturday when the Iraqi government charged that the Americans had "abandoned their responsibilities to provide protection."

The delegation, which is to discuss Iraqi weapons control and U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, is led by General Amir Rashid, head of Iraq's Military Industrialisation Authority.

At midday Sunday, Gen. Rashid's team boarded a Royal Jordanian airlines flight bound for New York, Iraqi embassy spokesman Adel Ibrahim said.

"The problems that delayed the team's departure yesterday (Saturday) have now been removed," Mr. Ibrahim said.

He said U.S. authorities "agreed to provide the team with security escorts as is customary for all official delegates visiting the U.S."

There was no immediate U.S. confirmation of Mr. Ibrahim's account.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said U.N. Secretary

General Boutros Ghali intervened for the United States to ensure the delegation's security before it left for New York.

The New York talks set to begin Tuesday will focus on implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 715 calling for long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons programmes.

The talks follow a crisis in July over arms monitoring that was defused when Baghdad agreed to the installation of surveillance cameras at two missile test sites, which have stayed off pending the New York meeting.

The talks with the United Nations are part of an accord struck last month during a visit to Baghdad by Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. commission scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq is seeking a comprehensive understanding with the U.N. Security Council on demolishing its weapons of mass destruction in return for the lifting of sweeping trade sanctions imposed after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. In a statement issued by its Vienna embassy, Iraq said it wanted to discuss technical issues linked to completing the removal of those weapons at the New York talks.

PLO, Israel on verge of deal

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Arafat said that the struggle for Palestinian rights was on the verge of a "major historical turning point."

Speaking to journalists after a meeting with Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, the PLO chairman described as "positive" and "satisfying" the three-day meeting between PLO leaders and the Executive Committee.

Mr. Arafat said he had briefed Mr. Ben Ali on the peace negotiations and international contracts, and on the PLO's position on a proposed declaration of principle linked to the Gaza-Jericho option.

Mr. Ben Ali had also been informed of the PLO's current financial crisis and the "suffocating impact of the crisis and the financial blockade imposed on the Palestinian people and its leadership," Mr. Arafat added.

Palestinians groups opposed to peace talks called for a general strike to coincide with what they labelled a "surrender session" of talks due to start on Tuesday.

The ten organisations, including two of the three main factions of the PLO and Hamas, called for the strike to take place in the occupied territories Tuesday to protest the "betrayal" of the Palestinian people by Mr. Arafat.

According to accounts from various officials, the autonomy plan would mean that:

— In Gaza and Jericho, the Israeli army would withdraw from population centres to security locations.

— Palestinians would be given full control over their internal affairs.

— Israel would maintain control over entry points to the autonomous areas, including the bridge linking Jordan with the West Bank.

— Israel would also remain in charge of Jewish settlements.

— Negotiations on problematic issues, such as the status of Jerusalem, would be postponed until talks on the final status of the occupied lands are to begin — within two to three years.

No changes on the ground are expected for months.

Israel Radio said that in exchange for a possible Israeli recognition of the PLO would renounce "terrorism" and delete references in its charter which Israel interprets as supporting the Jewish state's destruction.

Suleiman Najjab, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, said in a telephone interview from Tunis that the Palestinians had already recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced "terrorism" in the initiatives in 1988 that preceded its dialogue with the U.S. that was later suspended after a PLO faction staged an aborted raid on Israel.

"Chairman Arafat has already said the charter was archaic," Mr. Najjab said.

In Jericho and Gaza, PLO activists were said to be house-hunting for Mr. Arafat and his lieutenants.

On its face the agreement appears to be the easiest step the two sides could take. Most Israelis want to be rid of Gaza, and few of the 120,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank are near the sleepy Jericho oasis. Hamas, the PLO's Islamic opposition, has little power there.

But even with this limited step, major issues remain to be worked out including the extent of Israeli troop withdrawal from the two regions and coordinating internal security.

Not least of the problems is the question of interpretation. Palestinian officials see the plan

as something of a mini-state that will eventually be expanded to incorporate all occupied territories.

Israelis describe it as a five-year dry run that will test whether Palestinians can run their own affairs and prevent attacks on Israel.

The opposition Likud Party called for a special session of the parliament Monday despite the summer recess for a no confidence vote, a frequent protest tactic.

Leading rabbis among the Jewish settlers in the occupied territories said in a statement that the autonomy agreement was "high treason" and warned that settlers might use violence to thwart it.

In a telephone interview from the border strip of Lebanon where he has been banished since last month, the spokesman for Hamas called the agreement a dangerous matter that will destroy Palestinian rights.

"This agreement will not prevent the Islamic generations now or in the future fighting to restore their rights in Haifa, Acre, Lydda, Jaffa and Jerusalem," he said. U.S. President Bill Clinton said Sunday he was hopeful about the 11th round of Mideast peace talks.

"I'm hopeful," Mr. Clinton said as he left a church service Sunday.

Mr. Clinton added, "we've been working at it (negotiations) steadily for some time now."

Commenting on Friday's meeting between Mr. Christopher and Mr. Peres, Mr. Clinton said, "I'm obviously glad the meeting occurred but we've still got a long way to go."

"Their discussion previewed ideas that will be developed next week when the Middle East talks resume in Washington," State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said.

Norway's Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst said Sunday that he attended the secret talks believe Mr. Peres and Mr. Christopher.

Mr. Holst disappeared from Norway on Thursday, a week after an official visit by Mr. Peres to Norway. The foreign ministry had refused to say where he had gone.

"Holst took part in the meeting with Mr. Christopher and Mr. Peres in California," Norwegian foreign ministry spokesman Ingvald Havnen said. "Holst has played an active role in the peace process."

Israel, the United States and Norway were the only countries represented at the talks near San Francisco on Friday, the ministry said.

In an interview with Norway's NTB news agency, Mr. Holst declined to give any details of what was discussed at the California talks for why he attended.

"Out of regard to the partners I cannot comment," he said. In Washington, U.S. officials gave no details of the four-hour meeting on Friday.

The head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with Jordan and the Palestinians, Eliakim Rubinstein, is considering resigning over the "Gaza-Jericho first" option, Israeli Radio said. Mr. Rubinstein, who is also the Israeli cabinet secretary, had been kept in the dark about the agreement, the radio said.

The radio said Mr. Rubinstein will make a final decision after studying the tenor of the outline agreement.

Mr. Rubinstein was appointed leader of the peace delegation by ex-Premier Yitzhak Shamir and kept in his post by Mr. Rabin, who came to power after his Labour Party won the June 1992 general election.

COLUMN

90-year-old takes leap into the unknown

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee (AFP) — Ninety-year-old Porter Harvey proved you can teach an old dog new tricks — by making his first ever bungee jump, in front of 35 members of his family. Mr. Harvey, who plunged 60 metres attached to the end of a long piece of elastic, said the leap was the second most exciting thing that had ever happened. The first was when his wife agreed to marry him. Speaking after returning safely to terra firma, he seemed philosophical about his chances of repeating the feat. "I'd do it again, but not today," he said.

British transplant girl may need new organs

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (R) — A five-year-old British girl whose life was saved by a transplant of her liver and small intestine last year may need another operation involving several organs, doctors said. A spokeswoman for children's hospital of Pittsburgh, where Laura Davies received the two organs on June 10, 1992, said Laura's doctors were concerned about a persistent weakness of the small intestine. The girl has been placed on the hospital's waiting list for a multi-visceral organ transplant, which could involve any or all of a series of organs including the liver, small intestine, large intestine, stomach, kidney and pancreas. The spokeswoman said doctors planned to attempt the multi-visceral transplant only if drug treatment of her small intestine did not prove effective after a week. Laura has lived outside the hospital for several months since her surgery, returning for a short time to her home near Manchester. But she was readmitted to the Pittsburgh hospital with dehydration problems on July 12 and was then sent to the intensive care unit.

'Diana wants to groom William for the throne'

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana does not want a quick divorce from her husband Prince Charles because she wants to groom their son for the throne, a Sunday newspaper reported. Just weeks after a rival newspaper reported that she was seeking an early divorce from her estranged husband, the Sunday Express quoted a "senior adviser to the royal household" as saying she did not want to lose her influence within the royal family. It said she feared being frozen out of the process of grooming her eldest son, Prince William, for the throne if she left the royal family. Prince William is next in line for the throne after his father. Princess Diana's lawyers took the unusual step earlier this month of denying a report in the Mail On Sunday that said she was planning to file for divorce within months. The 32-year-old princess and her 44-year-old husband formally separated last year.

Driver ordered to carry photos of boy he ran over

OMAHA, Nebraska (AFP) — A Nebraska man who ran over a boy with his pickup truck was ordered by a judge to carry photographs of the young victim for the next five years. The driver, 47-year-old Terrance Hughes, must carry photographs of Nathan Ness, 14, whom he killed while driving drunk in January in Springfield, Nebraska, the judge said. Hughes was ordered to carry three pictures: The last photograph taken of the boy alive and two taken after his death. The boy's father applauded the punishment. "To have Nate's picture with him every minute for five years — that's almost worse than sitting in jail," said Randy Ness. Mr. Hughes was also sentenced to 204 days in jail and to speak with students about the accident.

Ramos likens Filipinos to quarreling crabs

MANILA (R) — President Fidel Ramos Sunday compared Filipinos to crabs clawing at each other while caught in a bamboo trap. Speaking on National Heroes Day, Mr. Ramos rebuked his compatriots for wasting their time in political squabbles instead of uniting to solve the country's economic problems. "Times of peace and civil order, we seem to fritter away in bickering," he said. "We split so easily into factions, each intent on its own petty agenda. We play at intrigue, each pursuing his or her self-interest."